

# THE ZAHNISERS



A HISTORY OF THE FAMILY IN AMERICA.

BY

KATE M. ZAHNISER

AND

CHARLES REED ZAHNISER

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ILLUSTRATED

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1906

*With a consciousness of its many defects, but with a hope that despite them all it may serve to knit more closely the ties of kinship-love throughout the family, this book is respectfully dedicated to the memory of the Zahnisers gone on before.*

KATE M. ZAHNISER.

CHARLES REED ZAHNISER.

*August 30, 1906.*

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# REVOLUTIONARY WAR RECORD OF MATHIAS ZAHNISER, I.

(It will be remembered that the name was spelled "Zahneisen" when the family came to America and for some fifty years thereafter. This spelling is still retained by the family in Germany.)

Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Vol. 7, page 836, 6th Co., 8th Battalion, Lancaster County Militia, John Miller, Captain, Col. James Ross, Commander, carries the name "Mathias Stonizen", apparently misspelling for Zahneisen. On page 858 is a muster roll of Capt. John Miller, 6th Co., 8th Bat., 1782, in which the name appears "Mathias Q?aneson".

"Mathias Zahneisen" signed the "Oath of Allegiance", at Lancaster. The Tax List of Lancaster Borough during the War of the Revolution contains the name "Math's Zaneisen, joiner" (i. e., carpenter, known to have been the trade of Mathias Zahneisen). Capt. Miller's company was partially recruited in Lancaster Borough.

The above record, together with that in "The Zahnisers" (copy in Congressional Library) was accepted by the Daughters of the American Revolution in the case of Mabel Zahniser Clayton, who was thereupon enrolled as a member under National Number 235199. Other applicants for such membership should refer to the correspondence and records on file in connection with this number in the national office at Washington.

1927.

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THE OLD HOMESTEAD  
(REPRODUCED)



VALENTINO ZAHNEISEN OF MOERSHEIM, GERMANY







INTRODUCTORY.



The Zahniser Family includes at this writing 1,432 people, the mass of whom reside in Pennsylvania and the majority in Mercer County. They are the descendants of a German boy who with his mother arrived in America in 1753.

For more than a quarter of a century there has been a demand for a history of the Connection. This has lately become much more urgent as the fourth generation was seen to be rapidly dying off and with them much valuable information would naturally be lost. The first efforts towards a comprehensive record were made by Jacob Zahniser of Jackson Township, Mercer County, who died in 1891. For a score of

years he had been gathering statistics and recording facts relating to the early history, many of which he had obtained from his grandmother, the wife of the original Matthias. The manuscripts he left have been of incalculable value in the preparation of this volume which has drawn more largely from them than from any other single source.

In 1902 the present compilers began the task of securing a complete family record and putting it into shape for publication. The manuscripts mentioned above were found to contain a mass of material, but it was in no condition for publication so that it became necessary to work it over entirely in the new. As much additional data had to be secured, the first efforts were directed to this task. Blanks were sent out through the entire Connection to be filled with data for the Record of the Family. At the same time, steps were taken to find some trace of our ancestors in Germany and locate the relatives still living there.

This last undertaking, which, at the time, seemed likely to be most difficult, proved unexpectedly successful. The tradition in the family here was that our ancestor was the son of Valentine Zahneisen who married a certain Juliana Clemens and lived in a village near the city of Landau till 1753 when they sailed for America. Working on this basis, correspondence was opened with the Royal States Attorney at Landau which resulted in discovering the record of our ancestor's marriage and locating the families from which both he and his wife sprang. A letter was then addressed to "The Oldest Person named Zahneisen Living in Moersheim" to which the following reply—written of course in German—was received:

Moersheim, Sept. 18, 1902.

Most Esteemed Uncle:

In reply to the note of June 12, I will communicate to you the following in so far as I am acquainted with the facts in this matter. My name is Valentin Zahneisen,



63 years old, a master-baker in Moersheim near Landau, Palatinate; also born there. The brother of my father, Valentin Zahneisen, emigrated to America in the beginning of the nineteenth century. He was unmarried. Of a Juliana Clemens, to whom you referred in your note, nothing is known here. Moersheim is one-half hour from Ilbesheim and one hour from Leinsweiler.

This is what I am able to communicate to you in this matter. Should you have need of more particulars, please let me know. I am ready any time to give you gladly any information possible.

With greatest respect signs,

Valentin Zahneisen.

Thus after a separation of 150 years, the two branches of the family again came into touch with each other. Further correspondence followed and, in 1904, Rev. U. W. McMillan visited Landau and secured much valuable material including several photographs and establishing many things which had previously been only surmised.

The compilers have also been in touch with some of the best streams of tradition in the family. These

have been used along with the sources mentioned above. The task of selecting and adjusting such a mass of material, much of it fragmentary and sometimes contradictory, can be appreciated by those only who have been engaged in similar effort. It is regrettable that these records are still so incomplete. The statistics concerning some of the older generations had not been kept and some small branches of the family cannot be located. More trying than either of these misfortunes has been the fact that some of the Connection to whom blanks were repeatedly sent have neglected to return them. Others have returned the blanks but partially filled out. All the material secured has been faithfully used so that the compilers feel that they can disclaim all responsibility for important omissions. Of course not everything furnished has been printed; many incidents have been omitted and biographies have been cut down so as to observe a fair proportion and to keep within the

necessary limits of the book. Nothing, however, of real historical worth has been intentionally omitted. Doubtless some mistakes will be found; they are inevitable in a work of this kind. Great care has been used, however, to make them as few as possible, the proofs being read again and again in search of errors.

Among the most potent of the agencies that have been operative in preserving the family traditions and conserving the family spirit have been the annual reunions. The first of these was held in 1875 at the Old Homestead then owned by "Capt. James" Zahniser who, with Jacob son of Michael had been most instrumental in bringing it about. After a few years it became the custom to alternate the place of meeting between Jefferson Township and the vicinity of the original settlement. This arrangement continued till 1905, since which time they have been held at Mercer which is centrally located and easily accessible by rail. Unfortunately no record of these reunions has been



SCENES IN ILBESHEIM, GERMANY



MONUMENT TO THE ANCESTORS  
OF THE FAMILY

kept and we are thus deprived of what might have been a valuable source for this work.

In addition to the persons mentioned above, special gratitude is due to Prof. Maurice E. Wright for translating documents.

Throughout the book, frequent mention will be found of places incompletely located. In all cases, Counties and Post Offices are in Pennsylvania unless otherwise stated and Townships mentioned are in Mercer County. In designating the various generations, Valentin Zahnisen and his wife are accounted the First, those following being denoted as Second, Third, etc., in order.





PART ONE.

“We must learn again to value our domestic traditions. A pious care has preserved certain monuments of the past. So antique dress, provincial dialects, old folk songs have found appreciative hands to gather them up before they should disappear from the earth. What a good deed to guard these crumbs of a great past, these vestiges of the souls of our ancestors! Let us do the same for our family traditions, save and guard as much as possible of the patriarchal, whatever it's form.”

Charles Wagner.

ORIGIN OF THE FAMILY.



## CHAPTER I.

Nestled in the heart of a beautiful valley not far from the upper Rhine in Highland Germany, is the city of Landau. The entire region is historic; thirty miles to the north-east is Worms where Luther faced the frenzied powers of Rome; at about the same distance a little more to the east is Heidelberg the nursery of German Calvinism and where, still earlier, Jerome the companion of Huss nailed his theses to the church door; Landau itself figured in the religious conflicts of every century from the fifteenth. In the Thirty Years War it was taken eight times by Swedes, Spaniards, Imperialists and French, and to the present day it continues a stronghold of Protestantism.

At a distance of some two miles a little south and east of Landau are two villages called Ilbesheim and Moersheim. Of these the first has two or three hundred inhabitants, and the second about six hundred. Two miles farther east is another village called Billigshheim. Landau itself contains some ten thousand people.

It was from this group of villages that the Zahnisers came. A century and a half have elapsed since our ancestors bade farewell to the Fatherland, but in those regions there is so little change that one can look on conditions there today and with little difficulty imagine what they were in the middle of the eighteenth century.

The country surrounding Landau, is surpassingly beautiful and fertile and is proudly called by its inhabitants, "The Pearl of Germany." In the midst of the valley flows the little Queich and on either side the low-rolling hills are covered with patches of grain

and vegetables a rod or two wide presenting somewhat the appearance of a huge crazy-patch quilt. The people live in little villages grouped here and there, for land is so scarce and valuable that they have no room for fences and farm residences such as are common in America. The farmers own but a small strip of land each and this they cut up into little sections which they cultivate as an American would a garden. In the villages, the houses are built entirely of stone or brick and are almost as compactly placed as in our great cities. In most cases, the stable is joined to the house or stands but a few feet from the back door. The streets are narrow and are paved with Belgian Blocks. Most of the houses are very old, some of them having been in constant use for over four hundred years.

The people are a sturdy and thrifty class who live in a simple and, to an American, a somewhat primitive way. For use on their lands, they have no



horses nor even oxen but use cows for hauling and plowing and that without even a yoke. Broad leather bands are placed around the animal's horns and connected with great chains which are attached to the cumbersome wagons. The women folk work much in the fields and are constantly to be seen driving the teams of cows or following along with bundles of grain, perhaps, on their heads. Domestic habits are as simple as those of outdoor life. One of the chief products of the region is wine which the people use quite freely. Their wines, however, are light and seem comparatively harmless. Drunkenness is not prevalent as in England and America. There is nothing of the feverish rush so characteristic of American life, but much more of sociability and neighborly cheer.

According to the tradition preserved in this country, the family sprang from a certain Valentine Zahneisen, as the name was spelled at first in America,

who married Juliana Clemens and lived in a village near Landau. Two sons had been born when, in 1753, Valentine's health failed, and, by advise of his physician, they sailed for America. Our researches in Germany have not only verified this tradition, but have pretty conclusively determined that Moersheim was the village in which our ancestors resided. We have found people bearing the name, some of whom reside at Moersheim and the remainder at Billigsheim. Those at the latter place, however, seem to have gone originally from Moersheim. By courtesy of the Royal States Attorney at Landau, we secured transcripts of the records at Moersheim and at Ilbesheim. In those of the former place, the name Zahneisen occurs frequently during the last two centuries. The given name Valentine does not occur, however, prior to 1800 and then never in connection with Juliana Clemens. The frequency of the names Valentine and Michael in the later records indicate a common origin for that family

and our own in which these names have always been favorites. In the records at Ilbesheim, the name Zahneisen does not occur at all, but there are two entries one of which states that Valentin Zahnmeister and Juliana Clemens were married, September 24, 1743, which is just ten years prior to the time when our tradition says that two children had been born and the family sailed for America. The other entry is on the preceding page of the same book and states that Valentin Zahneis and Juliana Clemens stood up as sponsors at the christening of a child. Inasmuch as it was customary then for betrothed couples to be selected as sponsors at the christening of children of their friends, and since neither Zahnmeister nor Zahneis occurs elsewhere in the records it seems probable that the parties in both cases are the same. The probability that both forms are misspellings of the name Zahneisen is increased to a practical certainty by the fact that both entries are made in French hand-

writing. When one remembers the difficulties of modern American officials with the spelling of foreign names, it is very easy to see how a French scribe could make the errors. At Ilbesheim the Clemens family still resides. It seems highly probable, therefore, that Valentine was one of the Zahneisens at Moersheim and that Juliana's home was at Ilbesheim. At the latter place they were married and then took up their residence at Moersheim. The suggestion that the original form of the name was Zahnmeister which was transformed into Zahneisen is rendered untenable by the fact that the former name is nowhere else found while the latter appears frequently in the Moersheim records prior to 1743.

The name Zahneisen (or Zahneissen by an older spelling) means "Tooth-iron", that is, an iron instrument for use on the teeth such as forceps or other tools of the dentist. Zahniser is an American transformation and of course meaningless.

The present Zahneisen family in Germany consists of only about a dozen persons. Valentin Zahneisen, the leading member of the family, is a retired master-baker and resides at Moersheim. He has two sisters, Elizabeth and Barbara and each of them has one child. He also has one brother, Konrad, living in Billigsheim who has three children. There is also a cousin of Valentin, Michael, living in Billigsheim, and Valentin himself has one daughter, married and two sons, one of them married and living in Landau. From this it is evident that the prospects for the continuation of the name in the Fatherland are not very bright. The family is said to be one of the most prosperous and respected in the community. Valentin is himself a genial character and now lives a life of comparative leisure. His picture occurs elsewhere in this volume.

One fact of considerable interest lately discovered is that another member of the family likewise named

Valentin and an uncle of the Valentin now living in Moersheim emigrated to America in 1805. This is the party mentioned in the letter from Valentin Zahniesen quoted in the Introduction and whom he apparently mistook for our ancestor. This man was twenty to twenty-five years old when he emigrated, and was unmarried. Nothing is known as to where he located or whether he afterwards married and left descendants. In case he did so, it is scarcely likely that his name would take the same form in anglicising as ours. From this reason the task of locating this branch of the family seems well nigh hopeless.

Of the Clemens family from which our maternal ancestor came, but little is known. The family is of Swiss origin however, and the fact that Juliana was a member of the Reformed Church along with the other fact that Landau lies on the route from Switzerland, the cradle of Calvinism to Heidelberg, its centre in Germany, suggests that the family may have been

one of those that migrated for conscience sake. In the days of religious bigotry, it frequently happened that those who were unwilling to sacrifice their religious convictions found safety in moving to another country. Such seems a probable explanation of the settlement of the Clemens family in Ilbesheim. The Zahneisens now living in Germany are all Lutherans, there being no other Protestant churches in the villages where they reside.

This much, then, we know of the origin of the Zahnisers. Their ancestors came from one of the choicest parts of Europe and out of that upper middle class which is everywhere the most stable element in society. The sturdy Teutonic stock which gave to the world a Luther and a Melancthon, and the free Swiss blood that stirred in a William Tell, united to produce the Zahnisers.

THE SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA.





## CHAPTER II.

It often happens that the things we undertake for our betterment bring us rather disaster. The sea-voyage on which Valentine Zahneisen entered for the improvement of his health, proved a long and rough one and before it ended both Valentine and his younger son died and were buried at sea. Juliana and her older son, now four years old, landed in Philadelphia probably in the Fall of 1753. A widow with a small child, alone in a strange land among people of strange customs and a strange language, it is no wonder that Juliana was homesick and discouraged. She often declared that if she could have walked back to Germany she would have returned at once. The hardships and dangers of her first voyage that had cost her

the death of a husband and a son, however, deterred her from undertaking another.

It seems that she was not without a fair supply of money and by this means she succeeded in reaching a German settlement in Lancaster County where she seems to have had friends and which probably had been Valentine's destination when they left Germany. Here she resided till 1790. Some time during that period she married a certain Henry Stout but was again left a widow. There were no children by this marriage.

Juliana's son, who landed with her in Philadelphia, was named Matthias. As he grew to manhood in Lancaster County, he learned the carpenter's trade. About the year 1774 he married Mary Lint, daughter of Michael Lint, with whom he lived in Lancaster till 1790. During his residence in Lancaster, his sons Matthias (2), Michael, John, Valentine and William were born.

The Revolutionary War occurred during this period and the Zahneisens, or Zahnisers as they now came to be called, were not without a share in its hardships. Matthias' mother spun flax and carried the cloth to Philadelphia where she received for it \$36 in Continental Currency. Shortly afterwards this money was repudiated, but she still preserved her hard-earned savings and most of it is still in the family, valued by those who possess it far above what it was originally worth. Matthias had some \$600 of this money at the time of his death. Matthias was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, but we do not know in what organization or for how long a period. This residence in Lancaster County is the most baffling period in the Family history. There are no other sources, apparently, than the traditions handed down from Matthias and his mother. These, however, are probably very reliable since other traditions received

in the same way and later compared with other sources, have invariably been found correct.

In 1790, Matthias moved with his family, including his mother, to Allegheny County and settled on a farm, though Matthias himself still worked at his trade and left the bulk of the farming to be done by the boys. In 1796 he sold this farm to Frederick Stoner by whose grandson, Whitmore Stoner, it is now occupied. The farm lies in Penn Township east of Pittsburg and south of the Allegheny river and about one and a half miles south-west of the old town of Unity. The Mount Hope Cemetery is on the farm and a few rods west of it is the old stone house in which Matthias probably lived. The western end of the structure carries a stone tablet stating that it was built in 1812, but the eastern part is the original dwelling and is very much older. The older part is virtually a three-storied affair and built directly over a large spring. The first story was used as a cellar and milk-

house and the upper stories as a dwelling. The surface of the ground is rough, steep and full of rocks, in marked contrast to that found in Mercer County where the family next located. During Matthias' residence here, his sons Jacob and David and his daughter Mary were born.

At the time when Matthias sold his farm in Allegheny County, the section of the state north of the Ohio and west of the Allegheny river had just been opened for settlement. The land had been purchased from the Indians in 1789 but they refused to vacate till General Wayne in the decisive battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794, convinced them that contracts are made to be kept and that the land was no longer theirs. The Indians now lowered their wigwams and silently retired westward, leaving the region open for white settlers. The Legislature had in the meanwhile arranged to sell the land. Settlers were required to clear, fence and cultivate at least two acres for every hundred

they desired to purchase and to build a house in which they were to reside or cause others to reside for a period of five years. At the end of that time they were permitted to purchase the land at the rate of \$20 for each hundred acres. The first man to settle in Mercer County in accordance with this arrangement was Benjamin Stokely who located three miles northeast of the present town of Mercer. This is the only white family definitely known to have been in the County when the Zahnisers came, though it is possible that the Roberts family was already located in Sugar Grove Township.

Mercer County lies within the region formerly covered with glacial ice. Ages ago, great glaciers hundreds of feet deep and many miles wide crept down over the entire region. By this agency the hills were cut down and the valleys filled with debris. The result is that there are no abrupt hills and few places where the rock is exposed. The surface is gently



KATE M. ZAHNISER,  
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REV. CHARLES REED ZAHNISER,  
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JACOB ZAHNISER AND WIFE  
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LATE RESIDENCE OF JACOB ZAHNISER

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RESIDENCE OF J. BYRON ZAHNISER  
(ON FIRST LAND SETTLED BY ZAHNISERS)

rolling and covered with glacial drift in some places more than a hundred feet deep. This drift is composed of various substances and contains many boulders and smaller stones locally known as "Nigger-heads" which have been carried here by the glaciers from regions farther north, and with which the young Zahnisers became acquainted in their first efforts at plowing, though often to the woe of shins and ribs. The soil produced by the glacial drift is fertile and the early settlers found it covered with forests of very large trees, mostly poplar, chestnut and oak.

When Matthias Zahniser sold his farm in Allegheny County in 1796, he and his three oldest sons sought out a new location in the territory just opened. Going on the theory that the land which produced the largest trees would produce the best crops, he selected a place in what is now Lake Township, eight miles north-east of Mercer. Here they built a cabin, cleared five acres of land and planted an orchard. The

place selected was some eighty rods north of the location now occupied by the home of J. Ira Zahniser. A portion of the old orchard is still standing.

With the coming of Winter, Matthias returned to Allegheny County but the three sons remained in the Wilderness with a few head of cattle which they fed chiefly on browse. Doubtless they would have returned with their father had it not been for the danger of thereby losing their claim to the land. By an unwritten law, universally observed among the settlers, if a claim was left without a person on it and without a fire in the cabin, it was considered abandoned and a new settlement could be made on it by any person who might choose to enter the vacant cabin.

When the Spring of 1797 opened, Matthias moved the remainder of his family from Allegheny County and settled on a tract immediately east of that which had been occupied during the preceding Summer and which now passed into the hands of his son

Michael. The oldest son, Matthias (2), settled the tract immediately south of his father's and John settled the one east of Matthias (2). Each of these tracts contained upwards of two hundred acres and was obtained in accordance with the settlement statute explained above. Much of this land is still occupied by descendants of Matthias, scores of whom live in the surrounding community.



THE OLD HOMESTEAD.



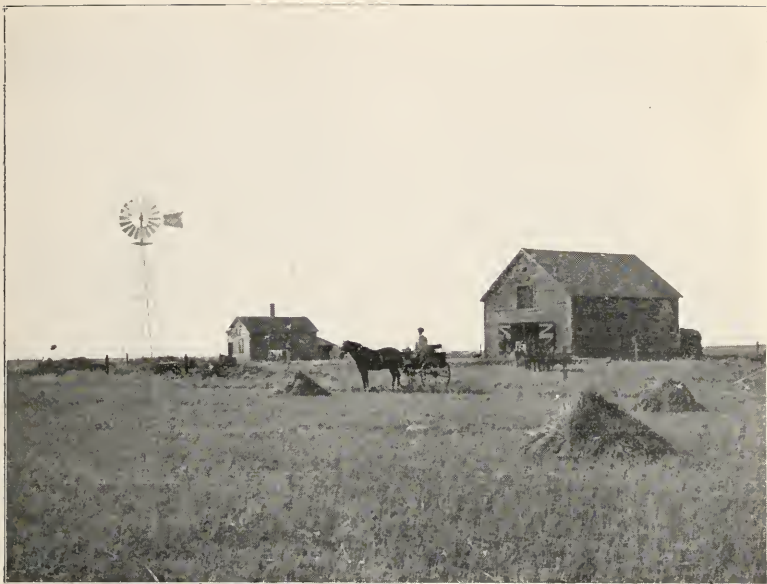
### CHAPTER III.

The place where Matthias Zahniser settled with his family in 1797 is located on the Mercer and Stoneboro road a half-mile south of the Bethany Church and is now owned by W. W. Park. The house stood by the roadside a hundred feet or so south of the present dwelling. A few rods back of the house was a spring over which a good-sized spring-house was built, the upper story of which was used by Matthias as a carpenter shop. The house was large and built of smoothly hewn logs with closely notched and dovetailed corners. It was a two-story structure, the second floor of which was little more than a loft and was used by the younger members of the family as sleeping quarters. There was but one room on the



first floor, the door opening in the centre of the south side. From the uncovered joists overhead, hung smoked sausages, dried beef, seed corn and dried fruits and vegetables of various kinds. At the eastern end was a huge stone chimney with the usual open fireplace. Adjoining the western end of the house was a smaller addition which they called the "stove room" from the fact that it contained a real stove, a rare thing in the community then. This stove was a huge ten-lid affair and the pride of the home for many years. In this stove-room Matthias and Mary spent most of their time during the later years of their lives and it was here their grand children loved to visit them, always sure of some simple present, very often of nuts. On a table in this room lay the old German Bible that Juliana had brought from Germany and that is still preserved, being at present the property of M. M. Zahniser of Stoneboro. Here were also the other big German books at which the little grandsons looked





RANCH OF MATTHIAS ZAHNISER  
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EDMUND S.

ARCHIBALD H. M.,

ARTHUR D.,

RALPH A.,

JACOB J.,

with wonder and awe. Just north of the house were the peach, cherry and apple trees and the currant bushes all red in autumn with their luscious fruit. South of the house was the garden, and west of the spring-house was the big apple tree which bore an abundance of little apples just suited to the taste of the little grandsons.

The state of society in this region then, was refreshingly simple. Most of the families were large and the people were notable for their longevity. Habits were usually such as conduce to good health. There was none of the frenzied rush after sudden wealth that is sapping so much of the strength and manhood of later generations. Content with nature's wants supplied and the few luxuries the times could afford, the pioneers lived together in genuine friendship and equality and resulting joy. All strove to promote one another's interests. The log-rolling, the husking, the cabin-raising, were times of real enjoyment when to

the pleasures of social intercourse was added the joy of doing another a service. Castes were unknown. Common hardships and common needs stirred a community of feeling and interest. The milk of human kindness flowed free. It is doubtful whether modern life with all its advantages, affords the real happiness enjoyed in those days or conduces more to the development of clean worthy character.

Full of the spirit of their times, the people who dwelt in the Old Homestead were its chief attraction. Here was Juliana the wife of the original Valentine, who lived with her son Matthias after the death of her second husband, Henry Stout, till her own death in 1801 at the age of 84. Her life had been one of many troubles and sorrows. To all the trials of frontier life in a land where even the language was strange, had been added the early death of two husbands and one of her two sons. Her early years in Lancaster County must have been ones of many sorrows which a kindly

darkness hides from our view. During her last year of life, she was almost helpless as a result of a stroke of paralysis. Yet through all her troubles, she was characterized by sturdy fortitude and Christian resignation. She was a woman of deep piety and a consistent member of the Reformed Church. In her declining years when deprived of the public means of grace, she spent much time in reading her old German Bible and in prayer so that her presence seemed to sanctify the home her son was establishing and her life has become a benediction on her numerous descendants.

The early years of the nineteenth century were ones of great happiness for Matthias and Mary Lint. After years of toil and privation, they were now possessed of a competence and able to live in comparative leisure. He still worked somewhat at his trade, but the heavier labor of the farm was taken by his sons. Both he and his wife had enjoyed some

education in German and derived much delight from their few German volumes, especially from the old Bible. Both were devoutly religious and members of the German Reformed Church. After locating in Mercer County where there was then no organization of that denomination, they attended the Presbyterian Church when opportunity was afforded. One of the marked features in the life of the Old Homestead, was the regular family prayers always conducted in German. Matthias would read a passage from the old Bible and then, with the aid of a prayer-book, lead his family to the throne of grace. It is such scenes as this that explain the high moral principles and devotion to duty that characterized his children. Matthias himself was somewhat superstitious and a believer in ghosts and witches as were most people of his day. His chief characteristics were strict honesty and straight-forwardness. He abhorred dishonesty and deception of every kind and always spoke his thoughts



very plainly—a characteristic which he has transmitted to many of his descendants.

After a quarter of a century of this happy life in their Mercer County home, came a few years of sorrows for Matthias and Mary Lint. In 1825 their only daughter died, leaving four small children; in 1826 the Old Homestead was destroyed by fire and in 1827 Mary Lint was stricken with paralysis and never walked again. By a strange coincidence, each of these events occurred on the 17th of March. After the Old Homestead was destroyed, both Matthias and Mary Lint seemed lost in the world. It was the home to which they had looked forward in earlier life and into which they had put their best years and their best efforts. When it had been destroyed, it seemed that a part of themselves was lost and no place was home. In 1829 Mary Lint died at the age of 75. Matthias, lonely and discontented, his mind weakened by the infirmities of age, lingered on till April 28, 1833, when

he died after one day's sickness, aged 84. He was buried near his wife and his mother in the old Zahniser Graveyard in Jackson Township.

Such lives as these are an inspiration to honest and simple living. The places these people were called to fill in the world were not large, but they were filled exceeding full. Their numerous descendants will do themselves honor to emulate the industry, charity and fidelity to right of those whose presence adorned the Old Homestead.

THE THIRD GENERATION.



## CHAPTER IV.

Matthias and Mary Lint Zahniser were the parents of thirteen children, eight of whom grew to maturity and seven of whom left descendants. Matthias (2), Michael, John, Valentine and William were born in Lancaster County; Jacob, David and Mary, in Allegheny County, and Adam, who died in infancy, in Mercer County. In addition to these, there was a daughter Susan who died at the age of three years, and a son Jacob and two others who died in infancy, but the dates and places of their births and deaths are unknown.

MATTHIAS (2), the oldest son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born in 1775. When a boy of

fourteen, he was afflicted with white swelling and underwent an operation by which a section of bone six inches long was removed from his leg, effecting a complete cure. In 1795 he worked with the surveyors who were opening up the new territory west of the Allegheny River. It is probable that what he saw of the land then led his father to sell in Allegheny County and seek a location in the new territory. In 1797 he settled the tract of land immediately south of his father's, his cabin being erected near the present residence of Jacob M. Zahniser in Jackson Township. In 1800 he married Dorothy Fry, daughter of John M. Fry. In 1807 he sold his farm to Gabriel Carpenter and removed to Jefferson Township where he bought and improved two hundred acres of land on which he resided till his death in 1850. His descendants have become the largest branch of the family, the most of them still residing in the community where he located at that time. His wife, Dorothy Fry, was

born in Westmoreland County in 1783, but at the time of her marriage was residing in Coolspring Township. In her later life, she remained peculiarly attached to the customs and fashions of the time of her girlhood. Her death occurred in 1875. Both she and her husband were people of devout religious life. For some years they were members of the First Presbyterian Church in Mercer from which they transferred their membership to the Unity Presbyterian Church where he became an elder. In later life they united with the Methodist Church at Charleston where they were faithful and honored members till their death. They were the parents of eleven children, the records of whom will be found in a succeeding chapter.

MICHAEL, the second son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born September 20, 1777. When the family settled in Mercer County, he took the tract on which he with his father and brothers had located the preceding year. In the Fall of 1802 or 1803, he went

to Lancaster County where he spent the Winter with his mothers' relatives. In the Spring he returned and continued to improve his farm. On April 29, 1806, he married Mary Mourer and the remainder of their lives were spent on the land on which he had first settled and which has never since passed out of the family. He never engaged in any other business than that of his farm. By industry and economy, he was so successful that he was able to start each of his sons in life with two hundred acres of land. His education was rather limited and entirely in German. During the War of 1812 he served his country in two enlistments, being located each time at Erie. About the year 1819 he united with the Coolspring Presbyterian Church of which he was a prominent member till his death, being selected for the eldership a number of times but always declining to serve. He was a man of robust health till 1850 when he suffered an attack of pleurisy from which he never fully recovered. In



April, 1852, he was stricken with paralysis and died as a result of a second stroke in June following. Mary Mourer, his wife, was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, June 16, 1784. Most of her youth was spent in Franklin County, Pa. In 1804 she came with her father's family to Mercer where she resided till her marriage. She was a woman of robust health, having reached the age of 92 when her death occurred November 8, 1876. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church and along with her husband enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all who knew them. The records of their six children occur elsewhere in this volume.

JOHN, the third son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born in 1779 and died in Mercer County in 1800. Little is known of his life in addition to what has already been narrated. He was buried on the tract of land he had settled immediately east of that of his brother Matthias, being the first person buried in

what has come to be known as "The Old Zahniser Graveyard." Here were buried also his grandmother, his father, mother, most of his brothers and many other members of the family from later generations. About 1890 a monument was erected here in memory of the ancestors of the family.

VALENTINE, another son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born in 1782. He received a slight education and resided with his parents till the death of his brother John in 1800 when he completed the settlement begun by his brother and obtained the property. Here he spent the remainder of his life. In June, 1806, he married Elizabeth White, daughter of John White. She was born in Fayette County and came to Mercer County in 1803. She became the mother of nine children, the records of whom occur elsewhere in this volume. Valentine was an industrious and fairly successful farmer. He took an active interest in politics, being a Democrat till the or-

ganization of the Republican party when he united with it. His death occurred March 22, 1866, preceded by that of his wife who died March 17, 1856.

WILLIAM, son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born 1789 in Lancaster County. In his early life he received sufficient education to become a school teacher in which profession he continued successfully for several years, working on the farm during the summer and teaching in the winter. During the War of 1812, he was a soldier in the American army in which he was a lieutenant, his division being located at Erie, Pa. Among the heirlooms of the family is a walking stick, the head of which is composed of wood taken from Commodore Perry's famous ship "The Lawrence" and which William brought with him when he returned from the war. This relic is now in the possession of Samuel S. Zahniser. In 1814 he married Eleanor Stotler who like himself had been born in Lancaster County but had removed with her parents

in early childhood to Allegheny County where they settled in the community in which the Zahnisers were then living, and where many descendants of her family still reside. Until about 1823 William and his wife resided with his parents on the Old Homestead. He then settled a tract of land a mile southwest of his father's where he resided till his death. This property then passed into the hands of his son Michael and is now the home of George W. Harrison.

JACOB, son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born October 23, 1792. He received a fair common-school education and learned the blacksmith's trade at which he worked a few years along with his brother David. In 1815 he became a clerk in the store of G. & A. Wright in Mercer, afterwards holding a similar position in Vernon, Ohio. In 1820, he returned to Mercer and opened a store of his own where he continued till his death which occurred January 22, 1852. He was married December 3, 1816, to Catherine

Wright and was the father of six children whose records occur in a succeeding chapter. His wife was born in Shippensburg, Pa., June 25, 1789, and died April 2, 1861, at Clarion, Pa., where she had gone to reside with her daughter, Margaret, wife of Rev. James Montgomery. By honest and straight-forward dealing, Jacob secured the confidence of the public and was successful in business. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Mercer in which he was for years an elder and superintendent of the Sunday School. A man of clean and noble life, he enjoyed the respect of all who knew him.

DAVID, son of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint, was born April 19, 1795. When sixteen years of age he went to Franklin County where he learned the blacksmiths' trade. In 1815, he returned and opened a shop on his father's farm where he continued till 1818 when he moved to Mercer. In 1819 he bought a hundred acres of woodland from his father and built a home

and a shop a few rods south of the Bethany Church where the house in which David, son of Michael, spent his last years now stands. In 1821 he sold this property to his brother William and removed to his father's farm which he afterwards inherited, and where he lived till 1854 when he sold it to W. W. Pool and bought the farm now owned by his son, D. R. P. Zahniser. At this place he farmed and kept a tavern till his death, October 14, 1874. David was twice married. His first wife was Anna Coulson whom he married March 18, 1818 and who became the mother of nine children whose records occur elsewhere in this volume. She died June 20, 1850, and in 1852 he married Catherine Thompson who died in 1855. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church till 1845 when he transferred his membership to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

MARY, the only daughter of Matthias (1) and Mary Lint who grew to maturity, was born in 1797,

just a short time before the family moved to Mercer County. She was married April 1, 1817 to Joshua McCracken with whom she lived on a farm near New Vernon till her death, March 17, 1825. She was the mother of four children whose records appear elsewhere in this history. In her earlier life she had been the pet of the household at the old home and the cherished friend of her little nephews who even as old men, never tired of recounting the graces of "Aunt Polly."

The following incidents will illustrate the conditions of life in those early times:

During the winter of 1796-97, the two sons of Matthias (1) who were staying in the cabin built the preceding summer worked in the timber during the day, leaving a fire in the cabin to hold their claim. One evening they returned to find that the cabin had taken fire and been entirely consumed, even their coats

being burned and leaving them nothing but their axes and guns which they had with them. There were no neighbors and night was coming on. Under the circumstances there was but one thing to do so, shouldering their guns they set out for Allegheny County and walked the entire distance to their father's home, some seventy miles. Gathering a new set of supplies they soon returned to their claim and built a new cabin, of course camping out despite the winter weather till their new home was completed.

At another time during the same winter when a heavy storm was raging, an Indian walked into their cabin. He had lost his way and the customs of both Indians and frontiersmen entitled him to their protection and care till the weather should clear so that he could see the North Star which was to be his guide in finding his way home. As long as he was their guest they were perfectly safe, even though he might come from a tribe intensely hostile. There was never



any trouble in the region with hostile Indians, however, after the time when the Zahnisers settled.

One of the hunting stories the men of that generation were fond of telling recounts how William killed a bear. This occurred when he was yet a lad not full grown. With another boy and a small dog he was in the timber some distance from his home when they accosted a bear. The other boy was dispatched for a gun while young William and the dog engaged to hold the bear's attention till he should return. This bruin seems not to have appreciated, the nipping and yelping of the dog especially aggravating him. The bear would rush at the dog with wide open mouth and the latter was having a hard time keeping out of the way. At length William became alarmed for the dog and siezing his walking stick, his only weapon he deftly thrust it down the throat of the open-mouthed bear and managed in this way to kill it. When the other boy returned he was surprised to find bruin al-

ready death with the tell-tale stick protruding from his mouth. William afterwards became quite a Nimrod, at one time shooting a deer through the head in total darkness and when he had nothing to guide his aim but the animal's movements in the bushes, but among all their exploits there was no deed of prowess or hunting skill of which the family was so proud as that of William killing the bear.

On one occasion, Michael was aroused at night by the sound of his pigs squealing in their pen. Gonig out to investigate, he found a huge bear helping himself to a mess of young pork. The bear was frightened away and in the morning was tracked to where he had taken refuge in a hollow tree. As soon as the ax was applied to the tree, bruin came out to give battle but a bullet settled the controversy before he was entirely out of his hole. Farmers in those days were often robbed of their pork in this manner though they were not always able to secure bear-steak instead.

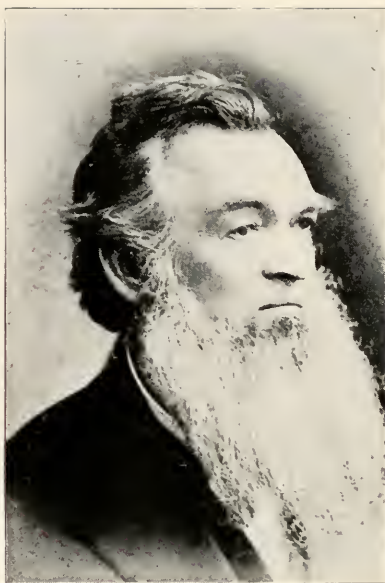
At another time, Michael's wife reached into a hollow log for eggs from a hen's nest. Something bit her which she took to be a setting hen but which she soon found was a rattle snake which had eaten the eggs. There was no physician within many miles so, in lack of other help, an old Indian squaw living in the neighborhood was sent for who came and sucked the poison from the wound. The treatment proved entirely successful and, as the squaw did not swallow any of the poison it did her no injury. Probably none of Mary's descendants would care to take the part of the squaw in similar treatment, yet if the squaw had not done so, it is probable that none of those descendants would ever have been born.

Small game of all kinds was abundant and constituted a large element in the regular food supply. It was an ordinary thing for the women of that generation to send one of the boys out in the morning with his rifle to shoot half a dozen grey squirrels for break-

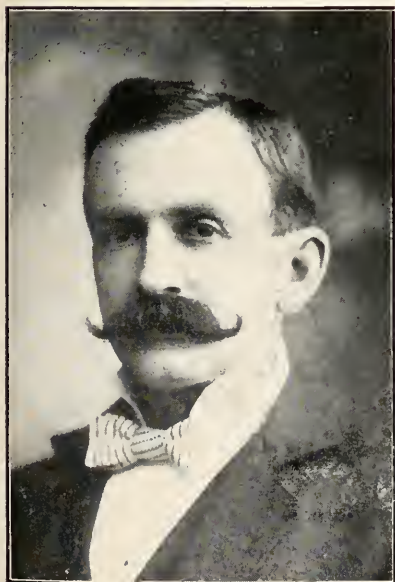
fast. Salt was very precious as what they obtained had to be carried on horseback from Erie or Pittsburgh. Cane-sugar was rare, but each farmer had a maple sugar grove in which a supply was made every spring for the ensuing year. Tropical fruits were not to be thought of. Rice was one of the luxuries of the time, but so expensive that when a mother cooked a mess of it for a family of six or eight, it was customary to mould it in a tea-cup. To people accustomed to all the conveniences of modern life, such conditions seem almost beyond endurance. Yet it is noticeable that the longest lived generation in the family was composed of the children raised in these homes. Outdoor life with an abundance of hard work but very little of either worry or hurry, these are the things that make possible a ripe old age and these were the things that characterized the lives of the children of Matthias and Mary Lint.



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REV. GEO. W. ZAHNISER  
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MICHAEL ZAHNISER  
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WILLIAM ZAHNISER



DAVID ZAHNISER

SOCIAL POSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS  
OF THE FAMILY.





## CHAPTER V.

One of the most difficult tasks of the historian is to so combine a mass of facts as to make a correct composite picture. Patient research and the use of good judgment in adjusting incomplete and, sometimes, contradictory sources will ordinarily suffice for securing a reliable description of an individual or a narrative of his life, but to combine a number of such results so as to give a correct idea of a period or a proper conception of a group, requires the use of a historical imagination and a delicacy of judgment that are hard to command. Nowhere is this difficulty more pronounced than in the work of him who writes the history of a family. It is comparatively easy to describe the personal appearance of some particular

Zahniser and tell what position he held in life, but to name the distinctive characteristics of a typical Zahniser and to give to the entire family it's proper place in society, is a task vastly more difficult. Yet without such a composite picture, this history would be incomplete. No single reader will be interested in the records of all the individuals whose names appear in the latter part of this volume, but nearly everyone is interested in the things about the family as a whole, which this chapter will attempt to describe. The substance of what follows is based on the records to be found in this volume and on what has been obtained by personal contact and conversation with large numbers of the family.

In the choice of occupations, the Zahnisers have always shown a preference for agriculture. Many have learned various trades, but they were usually such as could be carried on in the country and in connection with farming. We have always been and still

are a distinctively country folk who love to keep in close contact with nature. Those who have entered city life have usually done so as business or professional men. The family has contributed almost nothing to the proletariat class which constitutes so large and so perplexing an element in the cities and larger towns. At the present time, the vast majority of the family reside on their own farms. Of the remainder the greater number have entered mercantile pursuits, chiefly in country towns. Not less than 100 have at various times been connected with grocery, dry-goods and similar stores, four have become bankers, a few have become speculators and promoters, several have been traveling salesmen and a few have become hotel-keepers and real-estate brokers. Among the trades, the preference has been given to the building trades, carpentering especially and to those of the blacksmith and the machinist. The Zahnisers have always enjoyed a reputation of being

handy with tools. Most of the older men possessed considerable mechanical skill and were able to turn a deft hand to any kind of work on wood or iron that might be needed on the farm.

In the professions, the Zahnisers have shown a special preference for teaching. From the third generation downward, the family has been almost constantly represented in the teacher's chair, scores of the connection having spent more or less time in educational work. Of these some have risen to some eminence among whom may be mentioned Rev. Geo. W. Zahniser, Rev. Ira M. Condit and Prof M. E. Hess. Until within the last few years, the ministry had received only two men from the family, George W. Zahniser (deceased) and Ira M. Condit, both of the Presbyterian Church in which the latter has for many years been a missionary among the Chinese. Of late years a number of others have given their lives to this work, among whom special mention should be made

of the family of H. M. Zahniser, five of whose sons are now preaching in the Free Methodist Church. Others who have entered the sacred calling are, Charles Reed Zahniser of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, William J. Snyder of the Presbyterian Church and Walter R. Fruit of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the practice of law, the family has been represented by Frank J. Young (deceased), William P. McIlwain and Howard A. Couse. Claude I. Cannon and Lamont B. Smith are physicians.

The family has always been intensely patriotic. The original Matthias took part in the Revolutionary War and two of his sons in that of 1812. During the Civil War, more than a score were in the Federal Army. Of these a number were officers and others were distinguished for bravery. The party affiliations of the family have been chiefly divided between the Republican and Democratic parties with a preponderance in favor of the former party in the ratio of about

two to one. A few have been affiliated with the Prohibitionists. As a rule, the Zahnisers have been rather strict party-men, but whenever one of their own number has been a candidate, he has received practically the entire vote of the family. On one such occasion when a Zahniser was the candidate of the minority party and was elected largely through the support of his relatives, it was remarked by an opponent that "There are three parties in this county now, the Republicans, the Democrats and the Zahnisers!" There can scarce be a stronger evidence of the clannishness of the family that is shown in the way their faithfulness to one another has overcome fidelity to political party.

The Zahnisers as a class have been devoted to the church. All have been Protestants, and nearly all affiliated with Presbyterian and Methodist bodies, prevailingly the former. Of those who were not professing Christians, nearly all have been in sym-

and  
list







pathy with the church and fairly regular attendants. Among the Presbyterian bodies, about an equal number are to be found in the Northern and the Cumberland branches with a few in the United Presbyterian church. The family has been especially active in Sunday School work.

In general, it may be said that the Zahnisers are included in the great middle class of society. None of us have ever possessed great wealth, but none have died in the poor house; none of us have become famous for our great worth, but none have become notorious for our excelling baseness; none of us have held high positions of trust in the nation, the army or in commercial affairs, but none have been imprisoned in penitentiary or work-house; none of us have impressed the world with our surpassing wisdom or genius, but among us illiteracy and idiocy have been almost unknown. If Lincoln was right when he said, "The Lord loves the common people, He must do so

or He would not have made so many," the Zahnisers can surely feel confident of a large share of Divine favor!

The distinctive characteristics that mark a man as a Zahniser, are partly physical, partly mental. Both are much more easily recognised than described. In physical appearance, there are two distinct types prominent in the family. Of these it is impossible to tell which is original. Probably one was contributed by an early maternal ancestor, either Juliana Clemens or Mary Lint, but is it impossible to tell which type since we have no photographs or descriptions of any persons of the first two generations. Both types have been persistent and are still quite prominent in the family despite the large infusion of other blood by marriage. This persistence of the original types shows the remarkable vitality of the original stock.

Of the two types mentioned, the more common one is of a tall, angular build of body well illustrated

in the cases of David, son of Michael, John L., and James, son of Valentine. Many of the men of this type have measured six feet, some of them being of almost giant build. They have usually been thin in flesh and raw-boned, but of great strength and endurance. Their hardihood was phenomenal, many of them living to be more than four score years old and yet, despite the fact that they exposed themselves to all kinds of weather, never knowing a day of sickness. The hair was prevailingly black and of luxurious growth, ofttimes keeping it's color till the advanced years of life. Baldness was exceptional. The face was broad, the cheek bones prominent, the eyebrows protruding, the nose large and straight, the forehead broad but not above the average height, the jaw and chin strong and firm, the temples hollow, the beard coarse and dark, the eyes grey or brown, the cheeks red, this color being often carired up to old age. This type was the most common till the sixth

generation with which pronounced cases of it are much more rare.

The other type is of a shorter, sturdier build, though not corpulent, the bones are smaller and the contour of the body is much more regular. This type is to be seen in Andrew Jackson Zahniser, and Mrs. Sarah (Zihniser) Ball. A resemblance to this type is to be seen in Valentin Zahneisen of Moercheim, Germany, which suggests that this was possibly the original Zahniser type. Other features in which this type differs from that described above are, fuller cheeks, higher forehead and facial features less pronounced. The general expression is more firm, not quite so kindly, and the ruddy glow extends over more of the face. In other regards they resemble each other.

In mental characteristics, the two types differ in that the first is more aggressive, more impulsive, the second is more conservative, more phlegmatic. The

characteristics common to both are, a strong will and firm adherence to a purpose which attempts to ride over all obstacles, decided opinions which are readily and emphatically expressed, a high sense of honor, unswerving devotion to principle whether moral, patriotic or religious, and a deep-seated loyalty to the family that resembles the famed clannishness of the Scotch.

Of course it is not to be contended for a moment that the family has been without faults. Let it be frankly confessed that some have in moments of temptation done things for which it took years of clean living to atone; others have become involved in circumstances that have brought on both themselves and others trouble and loss; others have been deficient in industry, in ambition, in self-control. In some cases, the very virtues of the family have been turned a-wrong so that firmness became contrariness and frankness became harsh. Still the record of the

family as a whole has been remarkably good and the examples of our ancestors we will do well to emulate. No one need be ashamed he is a Zahniser.



PART TWO.



“The years between have taught some sweet, some bitter lessons: none wiser than this, to spend in all things else but of old friends to be most miserly.”

Emerson.

DESCENDANTS OF MATTHIAS.

NOTE—In the following records, the names have been grouped according to families. To each of the Third Generation is given a chapter and to each of the Fourth, a numbered section. The Fifth Generation is indicated by the names being in heavy faced type, and the Sixth by paragraphs. Thus in Chapter I, are the descendants of Matthias (2). His children are indicated as **1 John**, **2 Matthias**, **3 Michael**, etc. The children of **1 John**, are indicated as **Levina**, **Dorothy**, **Levi**, etc. The children of **Levina**, Anna, Fruit R., etc., are given a paragraph each. Later generations are recorded in the same paragraphs with their ancestors of the Sixth. In cases where there are several of one generation without descendants, they are grouped in a single paragraph, to save space. Parantheses following names give dates of birth and death. Following are the abbreviations used: b—born, m—married, d—died.

## CHAPTER I.

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(b. 1775, d. 1850) m. 1800 Dorothy Fry (b. 1783, d. 1875).

**I. JOHN** (b. 1801, d. 1869) m. 1826 Mary A. Bernard (b. 1806, d. 1882). He was born in Jackson Township and moved with his father in 1807 to Jefferson Township. At the time of his marriage he settled a tract of 100 acres of land northwest of Mt. Washington Cemetery, Jefferson Township, where he resided till 1836 when he erected a new home on another tract of 100 acres he had purchased south of his former site. By honesty, industry and surpassing economy he was able to distribute 600 acres of land among his children. His integrity was respected by every one and in all his life he was never party to a lawsuit. He and his wife were devoted members of the Methodist Church. In politics he was a Republican. Following are his children:

**Levina** (b. 1827, d. 1892) m. 1864 Cornelius Shafer (d. 1892) with whom she lived on a farm in Jefferson Township, their deaths being separated by only 10 days. Both were earnest

members of the Free Methodist Church. Her children are:

Anna M. m. 1885 Rev. John D. Rhodes of the Free Methodist Church. Resides at Jefferson, Ohio. She is the mother of the following children: Oren L., Etta M., Levina Belle, Henry E., Anna Blanche, Bessie, Clyde, Vivien Albert.

Fruit R. (b. 1867) m. 1891 Blanche Wells, is a teacher by profession and lives in Burlington, Wash. His children are Iona Belle, Lewis Wells, Albert Curtis.

Albert M. who resides on the family homestead. Lauretta (d. 1880).

**Dorothy** died in childhood.

**Levi** (b. 1832, d. 1867) m. 1861 Mary E. King (d. 1878). He was a farmer and resided near his father's homestead. In politics he was a Republican and he and his wife were members of the Methodist Church. His children are:

Emma, a nurse with headquarters at Gowanda, N. Y.

R. King (b. 1865) m. 1891 Mrs. Anna (Zahniser) Forker (d. 1897), m. 1898 Josie E. Wooster. He was educated in Allegheny College and taught school for a number of years. Later he located in Pittsburg and

engaged in railroading. He now resides on a small farm near Pitcairn, Pa., and is employed in the railroad offices of the P. R. R. His children by his first marriage are: Mary E., Robert R., Marion E. (d. 1896), infant (d. 1897); by his second marriage: Elsie J., Theodore V.

**Elizabeth** (b. 1834, d. 1898) m. 1858 Richard Fruit (d. 1890). Mr. Fruit was a farmer and resided in Jefferson Township, where he owned 800 acres of land. He was also an extensive drover and operator of flouring and lumber mills. He was a Republican and was appointed sheriff in 1874 to fill an unexpired term and was elected for the succeeding term. After his death his wife moved to Fredonia, Pa., where she remained till her death. Both were members of the Methodist Church. Their children are:

Robert (b. 1860) m. 1881 Lena Mattocks. Is an agent and resides at Mercer, Pa. He has three children, Nellie (d. 1901), Charley, and Carl.

Ella M. (b. 1862, d. 1902) m. 1890 E. S. Cousins, a carpenter. The following are her children and reside with their father at Redlands, Cal.: Corrinna Clare, Chauncey B., Elizabeth (d. 1902).

## THE ZAHNISERS

Margaret M., m. 1884 David W. Bastress, a government employee with whom she resides at Washington, D. C.

Caroline, a teacher in New Castle Public Schools.

Jennie, m. 1895 Edward Rodgers. Resides near Fredonia, Pa.

Walter (b. 1874) m. 1900 Mae S. Conant. He has been graduated from Fredonia Institute, Mount Union College and Boston University, and is a minister in the M. E. Church located at Houghton, Mich. Is the father of one child, Richard Conant.

**Amos** (b. 1837, d. 1906) m. 1861 Hannah Blackstone. They began housekeeping in a log cabin on the farm of 160 acres where they now live. They soon discarded the cabin for a commodious dwelling which they occupied till his death. He was Republican and has held numerous township offices and along with his family was a member of the Methodist Church. Six children have been born in the home, of whom the eldest, Nannie A., died in childhood. The others are:

John Elmer, who resides with his parents.

Lizzie M. (b. 1869) m. 1893 Victor L. Ealy, a farmer residing near the old home. His

children are, Floyd R., Randall and Wallace Leroy.

Frank W. m. 1900 Anna Gertrude Anderson. He is a farmer and resides in Coolspring Township. His children are Edson R. and Mary Helen.

T. Marvin, m. 1899 Effie Weller. He is a farmer and resides near the old homestead.

Mont. R. m. 1899 Anna Dick. He is a farmer and resides near the old homestead. Has two children, Harold Findley and Kenneth Clair.

**John A.** (b. 1838) m. 1865 Henrietta Inman. For some years he lived on a farm in Jefferson Township, which he sold and removed to Grove City, where he now resides. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Church. His children are:

R. Maurice (b. 1866) m. 1893 Mina Knox. He was educated in Grove City College and resides at Greenville, N. C., where he is engaged as an advertizing designer. His children are Chandler D. and Henrietta A.

R. Edwin (b. 18..) m. Anna Robach. Was educated in Grove City College where he graduated in 1891. For a number of years he taught in the public schools. At present



he resides at Karns City, Pa., where he is a bookkeeper.

Ernest R. m. 1902 Olive Baker. Was educated in Grove City College and is a teacher in the public schools of Karns City, Pa. His one child is named Lois.

**Mary A.** (b. 1840) m. 1865 J. H. Moore (d. 1866), m. 1868 John Christ (d. 1884), m. 1884 Ammon Broadbent (d. 1895). Along with her first husband, she located at Orangeville, Ohio, but he died within a year of their marriage, leaving one child, Etta, who also died in 1869. She then married John Christ and lived on a farm in Crawford County one year, when they moved to a farm in East Lakawamack Township. Four children resulted from this marriage, the second of whom died in infancy; the following are the other children:

Simeon E. resides with his mother on the farm where his father lived.

Emma B. (b. 1873, d. 1895) m. 1893 Claude Cozad.

Ross H. m. 1895 Alice Garner. He is a farmer and resides near the old homestead. His children are Ruth and Le Roy.

John Christ had children also by a former marriage with Sophrona Zahniser. Mary A.'s third husband operated a woolen mill near

Big Bend, Pa., where she resided till his death when she returned to the Christ home-  
stead, where she now lives with her son  
Simeon. She is a member of the Methodist  
Church.

**Josiah** (b. 1841) m. 1868 Mary J. Broadbent. By  
occupation he is a farmer and resides on the  
farm where he was born. He was educated  
in the common schools and is a prominent and  
influential man in the community where he  
resides. He is a Republican and with his wife  
is an active member of the Methodist Church.  
Following are his children:

Ammon (b. 1869, d. 1903) m. 1893 Crissie R.  
Horne. He was a farmer and resided near  
Transfer, Pa. He had one child, Donald  
Leroy.

Willis H. (b. 1877) m. 1902 Maud Wooster. Is a  
shovel maker and resides at Beaver Falls.  
He has one child, Williard C.

Ella M., Ida J. and Charles Herbert at home. W.  
Verne is a student in Grove City College.

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**II. MATTHIAS** (b. 1804, d. 1882) m. Elizabeth  
Jennings. He was a farmer and resided on the  
farm in Jefferson Township, now occupied by his  
son, Ephraim. Following are his children:

**Samuel** (d. 1906) unmarried, resided with Ephraim at the old home.

**John** (b. 1827, d. 1906) m. 1847 Anna Cozard (d. 1902). After a short residence at New Wilmington and Sharon he located on a farm near Neshaunack where he remained 19 years. In 1900 he moved to Charleston where he resided till the death of his wife, since which time he has lived among his children whose records follow.

Mary Elizabeth (b. 1847) m. 1870 John A. Stewart, a blacksmith, residing near Charleston. Her children are Charles (b. 1871) and Edmond (b. 1876) and two others who died in childhood. Charles was married in 1895 to Rose McQuiston and Edmond in 1899 to Ida Stewart. Both have children, Earl, son of Charles, having the distinction of being the first of the eighth generation in America as his father's had been of the seventh. Edmond's children are Lawrence and Paul. Both Charles and Edmond are blacksmiths and reside near their boyhood home.

Albert P. (b. 1851, d. 1883) m. 1873 Lucinda McCallen. He was a farmer living in Hickory Township. His oldest son is Frank, who married (1900) Mabel Thompson and is

a painter. The second is James Elmer who married (1900) Edna Mealy and has one child, Russel M. He is a machinist in Akron, Ohio. The third son is Mont. S., a carpenter. There are two daughters: Margaret A., who married (1902) Ralph T. Ferguson and has one daughter, Dorothy Grace, and Jennie E. who married (1897) William Hassel and is the mother of four children: Clarence L., Victor, William M. and Eva G. (d. 1905).

Olive (b. 1855) m. 1873 James Robins (d. 1876), m. 1882 W. H. Linder. Resides near Sharon. By her first marriage she has two children: Margaret, married Wm. Fry 1894 and resides in Philadelphia; she is the mother of three children: Pearl Margaret, William James and Earl Zahniser. Pearl, the second daughter, married Wm. Murphy 1895, and resides in Sharon. By her second marriage Olive also has two children: Lois married M. L. Roberts in 1905, and Earl, at home.

Mary A. (b. 1857) m. 1877 T. W. McClain a printer with whom she resides at Mercer. She is the mother of the following children: Alice C. (b. 1879) who married (1903) M. J. Calderwood, a printer with whom she resides at Mercer.; Mary E., Sarah, Thomas,

and Robert are still at home. Two others, John Z. and Anna died in early life.

Louie, the youngest child of John, is a graduate nurse and practicing in Sharon, Pa.

**Lucinda** died young.

**Matthias** (4) died in young manhood.

**William** (b. 1830, d. 1894) m. 1870 Leah Bortz. During the Civil War he was a soldier (Co. D. 169 P. V.). Following are his children:

Mary E. (d. 1902) m. 1894 J. M. Burgess.

Robt. H. (b. 1874) a farmer residing on his father's farm in Jefferson Township.

**Sophrona**, married 1867 John Christ, whose record occurs along with that of his second wife, Mary A. Zahniser. Saphrona was the mother of three children:

Anna who married Geo. Anderson of Greenville, and was the mother of two children, Goldie and Edward.

Onie, married, lives in Sharon, and Edward died in childhood.

**Mary A.** (b. 1839) m. 1857 Andrew J. Walker (b. 1835), a farmer with whom she resides near Sharon. Ten children were born of whom one, Elizabeth, died in girlhood. The others are: Robert.

Saphrona m. Joseph Shingledecker and resides near New Wilmington, Pa. Her children are: Thomas, David, Mary, Russel, Wallace, Joe, Levra. Two others, Harry and Lillian, died in infancy.

George B. m. Amy Ripple. He is a farmer residing near Lamott, Ia., and has one son, John.

Sylvester m. Jane Ripple (d. 1901). He is a farmer residing near Lamott, Ia., and has four children: Clara, Lura, Jane and Amy.

Mary E. m. Frank Zimmerman and resides at South Sharon.

Samuel M. m. Lydia Waddell. He is a farmer living at Andrew, Ia., and has three children, Robert, Levi and Dorothy.

Ella L. m. Sherman Spitler. She resides at Struthers, Ohio, and has two children, Hazel and Cecil.

Lillian m. William Doyle (d. 1905). She resides at Sharon and is the mother of two children, Doris and Mildred.

Andrew J. m. Catherine Doyle. He is a plumber residing at South Sharon, and has one son, Jackson.

**Jacob L.** was a soldier in the Civil War and died in the service, aged about 22 years.

**Ephraim** (b. 1861) m. 1880 Lucinda Bortz, was the son of Matthias (3) by a second marriage. He is a farmer residing on the farm formerly occupied by his father. Following are his children:

Harrison M., an electrician residing at Sharon.

Clara M. (b. 1885) m. 1902 M. Schwartz a laundryman of Sharon. Her one child died in infancy.

Christella, Leander M. and Odis S. reside at home. Another daughter, Ellen M. died in girlhood.

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**III. MICHAEL** (b. 1805, d. 1873) m. 1829 Amelia McLean (b. 1801, d. 1874). Following are his children:

**Maria** (b. 1830, d. 1900) never married.

**Sarah** (b. 1831, d. 1902) m. 1847 George Smith a farmer residing near Hadley, Pa. Following are his children:

George (b. 1856) m. 1891 Mattie Scrinen with whom he resides on a farm near Hadley. He has five children: Beatrice, Alice B., Harry T., Howard W. and Raymond W.

Amelia (b. 1848) m. 1868 Samuel Hazen, a farmer, living near Hadley. Her oldest

child, Amy, married (1888) George Jackson but died in 1891 at the age of 22 years, leaving one child, Marvin. Amelia's second child, Frank died (1883) in boyhood. The next son, Ira, married (1898) Emma Campbell and has two children, Nellie M. and Charles H. He is a mail carrier and resides at Hadley. There are two other children, Pearl, a nurse, and Wendell at home.

Mary J., m. 1884 Ephriam Foust, a farmer, residing in Fairview Township. She has three children, Myrtle A., John W. and Ephraim F.

Samuel (b. 1869, d. 1899).

Lovina (b. 1855) m. 1875 David F. Standley and resides near Greenville. Of her children, Clyde married Anna Taylor and Sadie M. married Frank Houth. She has one child, Lester. Lovina's other children are Charles and William.

Matthias (b. 1862) resides at Steubenville, Ohio.

Caroline m. 1886 Henry Hoffman (d. 1905) and resides at Hadley. Her children are, Lyda, Lee, Earl, Dora, Clara, Carl and Laura.

Zelinda m. 1892 Scott Beckdol and resides at Transfer. Her children are, Bertha, Kate, Elsie, Pearl and Reuben.



Michael m. 1895 Ella Patterson and resides at Skidmore, Pa. His children are named John and Sarah May.

Martin (b. 1864, d. 1878).

**Caroline** (b. 1844) m. 1866 J. W. Porter (d. 1892), a farmer residing near Charleston, Pa. Following are her children:

Anna (b. 1868) m. P. M. Mortimer, a farmer, and resides near Sharon, Pa.

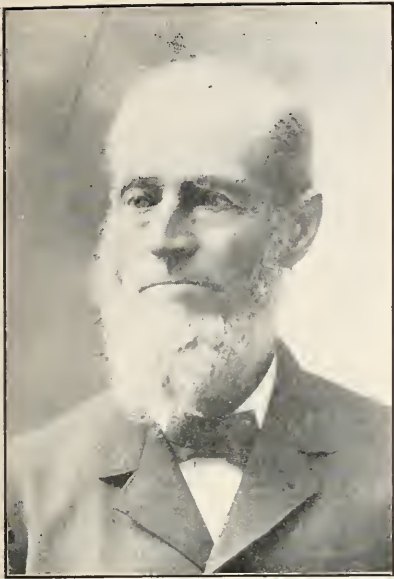
Amelia resides at home with her mother.

Alice (b. 1872) m. 1895 E. W. Beatty, a farmer, residing near Sharon, Pa. Her children are, Ethelwyn and Lillian.

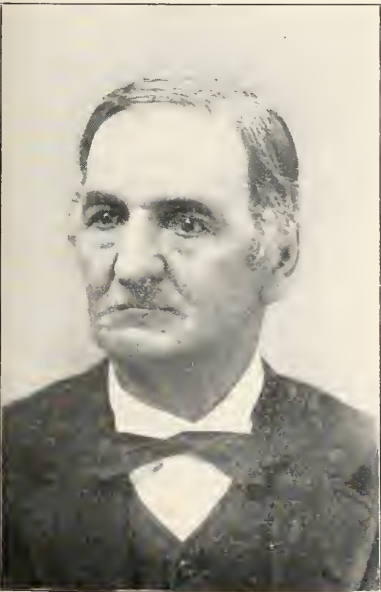
**Julia Ann** (b. 1833, d. 1892) m. 1854 Thomas Biddle (d. 1891). Mr. Biddle was a farmer and lived in Mercer County till 1864 when he moved his family to Iowa. In 1868 they settled in Eastern Kansas, where they spent the rest of their lives. Their children are,

Margaret (b. 1856) m. 1874 Mr. Sherman, a farmer residing at Hiawatha, Kan. They have four children, Lawrence, Wilbert, Gladys and Innis.

John (b. 1863) resided with his parents till their death, after which he went to the Canadian Northwest where he is engaged in cattle ranching. His address is Medicine Hat, Assiniboia, Canada.



SAMUEL, HOSACK AND WIFE  
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MICHAEL, ZAHNISER AND WIFE  
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T. O. HOSACK AND WIFE

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GEORGE SMITH AND WIFE

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FRED T. ZAHNISER AND WIFE

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Alice (b. 1864) m. Mr. Olson and resides at Bartlesville, Indian Territory.

**Matthias** (b. 1837) m. 1859 Sarah Biddle, m. 1888 Mary A. Bell (d. 1901). He has always been a farmer. In 1878 he located in Kansas where he remained till 1901 when he moved to Medicine Hat, Assiniboia, Canada. By second marriage he has one child, Daisy B., who is at home. His children by his first marriage are:

Johnathan W. (b. 1860) m. 1887 Susan Griffith and is a farmer, residing at Albia, Iowa. His children are Nora, Webb, Emily, Effie, William and Roy.

Emma Margaret m. 1888 Wm. Lister, a ranchman with whom she resides at Hay Springs, Neb. Of her three children Sylvia Florence died in girlhood: the others, Cecil E. and Edwin A. are at home.

Mattie I. (b. 1864) m. 1887 S. E. Sparks an extensive stock dealer with headquarters at Kansas City. Her children are Charley, Worthy and Floyd.

Norman (b. 1867) m. 1892 Mary Garner. He is a ranchman residing at Altamont, Kansas. His children are Jacob Clyde, Ellis Colton, Minnie Alice, Earl Dale, Twila May and Norman Karl.

Grace (b. 1868) m. 1887 Harvey Griffith, a farmer, with whom she resides at Mulhall, Okla. Her children are Millie, Chalmers and Maurice.

Chalmers A. married Irene Goff. He resides at Montrose, Col., and is engaged in teaching.

Minnie resides at Montrose, Col.

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IV. **MARY** (d. 1856) m. 1828 Jonathan Young (b. 1800, d. 1863). Mr. Young was said to be the first white child born in Mercer County. He spent his life on a portion of his father's homestead in Lacawannack Township. Mary was familiarly known as "Dolly". Three children were born, as follows:

**Hiram** m. Delilah Titus. Resides somewhere in the western states. They had two children, Loren and Alice.

**Wilson** m. Mary Hay. Resides somewhere in Kansas. His children are Newton, Elvira, Hiram.

**Matthias** (b. 1834) m. 1856 Caroline Hollenbank. He was a farmer and resided at the homestead of his father. Following are his children:

Frank J. (b. 1857, d. 1901) m. 1881 Sadie Hosmer (d. 1882), m. 1891 Susan Buswell. He was

educated at Mount Union College and Westminster College where he graduated in 1878. He taught in the Mercer Public schools and studied law with B. Magoffin, and was admitted to the bar in 1882. In 1886 he removed to Valley City, North Dakota. Here he became one of the leading attorneys in the state. He was active in politics and especially in temperance legislation. He left three children, Sadie H., daughter of his first wife, who is a stenographer of Bismark, North Dakota.; Ruth B. and William E., the last residing at Clarkson, Wash.

Helen J. (b. 1859) m. 1879 J. B. Clark, a painter, with whom she resides in Jefferson Township.

Milton M. (b. 1861, d. 1902) m. 1881 Eva Daugherty. Was a railroad conductor and left two children, Harold and Foust of Pocatello, Idaho.

Nettie E. (b. 1865) m. 1882 C. N. Wringer. In earlier life she was a teacher in the public schools. She now resides at Whatcom, Wash. Her husband is principal of the Government schools. She has two children, Jessie M. and Wendell.

Chauncey died in infancy.

Clara P. (b. 1868) m. 1888 John Hassell, a farmer, residing in Jefferson Township. She has one child, Merle.

Justus H. (b. 1871) m. 1894 Sarah Chadderton. Resides at Sharpsville and is a moulder. Has one child, Robert C.

Myrtle E. (b. 1874) m. 1894 Harry A. Broadbent. Resides at Manitowac, Wis. Has one child, Floyd N.

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V. **HANNAH** married James Young and located in Kansas. Her children were Matthias, whose whereabouts are unknown; James now dead, and Julia, who married John Heasley in Kansas.

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VI. **DAVID** (b. 1812, d. 1878) m. 1837 Rachael Tice (b. 1822, d. 1884). Was a successful farmer and spent his life in Jefferson Township. His children are:

**Catherine** born 1837, died 1897.

**Jacob L.** m. 1862 Elizabeth Morrow. Is a farmer and lives in Jefferson Township, where he is also engaged in the lumber business. His children are:

Eva m. 1894 W. S. Morrow, who is associated with her father in the lumber business. She



has three children, Mary E., Margaret E. and Everett.

James A. m. 1896 Susan A. Shannon. Is a farmer and resides in Jefferson Township. His child is named Retta N.

Edwin m. 1890 Retta Shannon. Is a farmer and resides in Jefferson Township.

Mary B. m. 1899 W. J. Moyer, a farmer, residing near Ferdonia, Pa. She has one child, Evalyn Marie.

Robert E. and Earl W., at home.

**Matthias R.** (b. 1843) m. 1871 Lottie Hunter; m. again 1900 Della Smith (b. 1873). He enlisted in Co. B., 140th P. V., serving faithfully for three years and suffering the loss of a leg at the Battle of Spotsylvania. After his retirement from the army he engaged in merchantile pursuits at Big Bent and later at Sharpsville, Pa. He now resides at Coldwater, Mich. His present wife is a lady of considerable prominence and came from one of the leading families of the country. He is a Democrat and a member of the Methodist Church. His children are:

Charles W. resides in Cleveland and is connected with the P. R. R.

Nellie Della resides in Cleveland.



Blanche and Thomas died in childhood.

**Frederick T.** (b. 1845, d. 1905) m. 1866 Mary A. Huey. In early life he engaged in butchering at Mercer, locating later in New Windsor, Ill., Columbus Junction, Iowa and Sac City, Iowa, where he remained till 1902 when he located on a farm at Bradley, S. D. He was energetic, industrious and persevering and as a result prosperous. In religion he was a Methodist.

Thomas (b. 1868) m. 1892 Maggie Herrold. He is a butcher and resides near his father's home. His children are Wm. Frederick, Paul Vernon.

Rachael N. (b. 1869) m. 1892 Chas. M. Culp. Her children are Ruth M. and Mary C.

Patience (b. 1872) m. 1892 Geo. W. Herrold, a farmer. They have two children: Thos. V. and Mary.

There were two other children died in early life.

**Henry N.** (b. 1850) m. Ada Fell and is living a retired life at Cold Water, Mich.

**Aaron J.** (b. 1851, d. 1898) m. 18.. Jane Double. His children are: Cassie E., Thomas, Walter, Innis, Elmer, Mary, Fanny and Orrie.

**David N.** (b. 1856) m. 1884 Chloe Weller. The greater part of his life was spent in Jefferson

Township, where he was engaged in farming. He has also been interested in many mercantile pursuits. His present address is Mercer, Pa. His children are: Frank, Frederick and Minnie, all residing with their parents.

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**VII. JACOB** (b. 1818, d. 1884) m. 1843 Mary Merchant (b. 1822). His entire life was spent on a farm six miles west of Mercer. He was an active member of the Methodist Church at Charleston, and a man of robust health as was his entire family. For 30 years no physician was ever called into the home. His wife now resides with her daughter Alice.

**Susan** (b. 1845, d. 1867) m. 1865 John Shaffer, a farmer. Her children are:

Robert W. (b. 1868) m. 1893 Cora Burgess.  
Lives near West Middlesex and a farmer.  
His children are, Ellen and Viola.

Ella m. 1884 Monie Miller, a farmer, near Fredonia, New York. Her children are, Robert and Alice. Robert married (1905) Bessie Lord.

**Rachael** (b. 1847) m. 1870 Wilson S. Snyder (d. 1896). Resides on a farm six miles west of Mercer. Her children are,

Mary m. John Garner a farmer residing near his mother.

William J. (b. 1875) educated in Grove City College from which he graduated in 1903; was for 7 years a teacher and is now in the Theological Seminary in Allegheny, Pa.

Vicie m. 1903 Marian G. Jewell, a farmer, residing near his mother's home. Has one child, Daniel C.

Lillie, Alice, Daniel at home.

**Lemuel** m. 1882 Margaret Nelson. Is a farmer and resides on a farm near the old homestead. Of his three children two died in infancy, the surviving one is named Clarence Lee.

**Sarah A.** m. 1895 H. E. Johnston (d. 1903). She now resides with her brother, Leslie.

**James C.** m. 1895 Emma Yarian. He resides on the farm formerly occupied by his father.

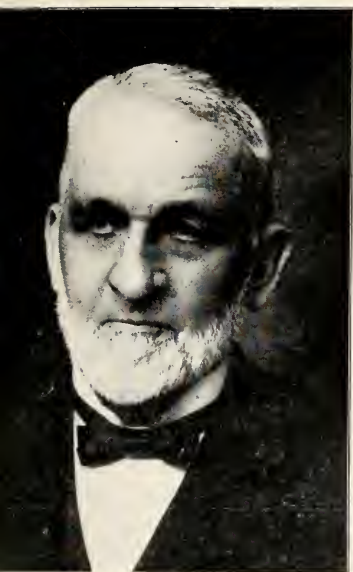
**Lou** is a lumberman living near Bradford.

**Alice** m. 1891 D. P. Reimold, a farmer, residing on Mercer and Sharon Road. She has one child, Rosa May.

**Leslie** m. 1906 Vina Broadbent. Resides on a farm near the old home.

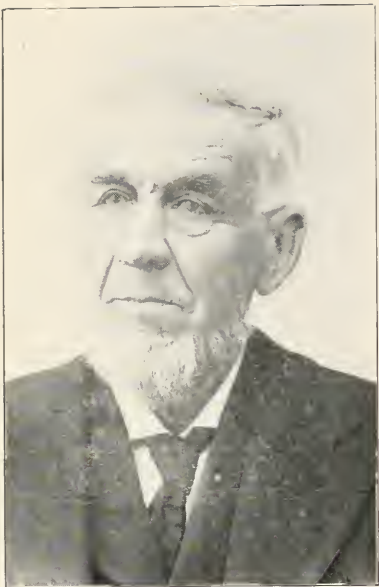
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**VIII. JULIA** (b. 1815, d. 1881) m. 1836 James C. Anderson (d. 1883), a farmer, with whom she resided



VALENTINE ZAHNISER AND WIFE  
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JOHN L. ZAHNISER AND WIFE

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near Mercer, Pa. Two of her children died in infancy; the others are,

**Hannah** (b. 1839, d. 1876) m. 1866 Vance Nipple (d. 1887). Her children are:

J. W. (b. 1874) m. 1903 Henrietta Thompson. He is a cement worker and resides at Meadville. His one child died in infancy.

William (b. 1871) m. 1893 Agnes M. He is a contractor and resides at Meadville, Pa., and is the father of two children: Agnes Viola and Mary Madeline.

**Jacob A.** (b. 1841, d. 1899) m. 1868 Elizabeth Dumas, m. 1873 Emma Roberts. His children by his first marriage are,

Alice m. 1890 Dr. Walter Weiss and resides at Rock Creek, Ohio. Her children are, Helen E., Mildred P. and Agnes A.

Warren m. 1904 Mary Moore. He is a dairyman residing at Los Angeles, Cal. He has one son, George.

James m. 1898 Hallie Clark. He is a blacksmith and lives at New Castle, Pa. He has three children, Mary E., Cornelia I. and Helen V.

By his second marriage Jacob A.'s children are:

Frank m. Anna Hoineffer. He is a railroad engineer and resides at Allegheny, Pa.

## THE ZAHNISERS

George (d. 1903) m. Emma Hall.

Clara m. William Hasteller and resides at Hillsboro, Ore.

Willis, Norman, Jessie E., Mary, John and Helen reside at their father's former home at Hillsboro, Ore.

Dorothy A., single, resides with Mrs. Hamilton Porter.

Lydia m. John Fox with whom she resides in Cool-spring Township. Her children are:

Albert m. Laura Cozad.

Warren m. Jennie Huey.

William and George.

David (b. 1850) m. 1875 Hannah Stinegrabe (b 1858). He is a farmer living near Mercer. His children are:

Martin J. m. 1900 Gracia..... and is engaged in farming near Transfer, Pa. He has two daughters, Elena and Velma.

Lewis A. m. 1901 Irene..... He is a farmer residing near Mercer and has two children, Edna M. and Clifford A.

Susan (b. 1854) m. 1872 Thomas M. Bagnall (b. 1850) a farmer with whom she resides near Transfer, Pa. Her children are:

Thomas Austin (b. 1875) m. 1900 Hannah Thompson. He resides at Conneaut, Ohio, and is engaged in railroad work. His children are: Elizabeth, Anna B., Clifford.

Jessie Mabel (b. 1881) m. 1898 John Mellison. She resides at Shenango, Pa. Her children are: Edward, Susan, Mary and Harold.

Mary E. and Rosa B. reside at Conneaut, Ohio, Earl M., Mont H., Laura E., Mac and Reatha M. reside with their parents. One child, Austin, died in infancy.

**Levina** (b. 1856) m. 1878 Hamilton Porter (b. 1858, d. 1905). She resides on a farm near Mercer. Her children are:

James I. (b. 1881) m. 1904 Maria Nelson (b. 1882). He is a mechanic located at Pittsburgh and has one child, Harry N.

Ellis Roy (b. 1883) m. 1905 Pearl Grice. He is a teamster living at McKeesport.

Pearl (b. 1886) m. 1905 Lewis Anderson with whom she resides on a farm near Mercer.

David C., Lula B., William D. and Francis H. reside with their parents.

**Mary Jane** (b. 1860) m. 1878 Joseph W. Wringer, a carpenter, with whom she resides near Mercer. Her children are,



James L. (b. 1879) m. 1900 Hannah Snyder. He is a glassworker living in Butler, Pa., and is the father of two children, Alice F. and Mary E.

Anna M. (b. 1881) m. 1901 Johnson Cooley, a plumber, with whom she resides at New Castle. She has two children, Blanche A. and La Verne H.

Prescott E. (b. 1883) m. 1901 Etta Emery. He is a laborer residing at Mercer and having two children, Prescott H. and Paul L.

Alice M., Helen I., Mary L. and Olive F. are at home. One other child died in infancy.

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**IX. SUSAN** m. 1845 Adam Merchant (d. 1883), a farmer, residing in Jefferson Township, where she still resides. Her children are,

**Albert** (b. 1846) m. 1869 Lucy A. Smith. Is a farmer and resides near Greenville, Pa. His children are,

Michel Anna (b. 1872, d. 1906) m. 18.. E. C. Mitchell and resided near Greenville, Pa. Her children are, Albert Edwin, Lawrence Henry, Kermit Louis, Byron Marvin and Edison Chamberlain.

Richard A. (b. 1875) m. 1901 Rosa M. Busch (d. 1904). Resides at Greenville where he is

engaged at the carpenter trade and is the father of one child, Rosa Malinda.

Maud M. (b. 1878) m. 1899 Taylor Osborn. Resides at Greenville, Pa., and is the mother of two children: Bertha Lucile and Iva Ruth.

Lamont L. (b. 1880) m. 1903 Edith Grudal. Is an iron worker at Barbarton, Ohio, and has one child: Roy.

Daisy E. (b. 1884) m. 1904 Frederick Bear.

Emma J. died at 19 years of age. Elizabeth May (b. 1904).

**Lucinda** (b. 1848) m. 1875 W. F. Silveus, D.D., pastor of the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Pittsburg. Following are her children:

Blanche Iona (b. 1878) m. 1901 Israel Griffith, an electrical engineer, resides at Pittsburg, Pa. Of her two children, one died in infancy, the other is named Sylvia L.

Pearl A. (b. 1880) m. 1903 Frank L. Bowman, an attorney, resides at Morgantown, West Va. Her one child died in infancy.

Paul Dewitt, a student, resides at home; Norman S. (d. 1876).

## THE ZAHNISERS

**Julia** (b. 1850) m. 1871 Dr. George Henry Smith (b. 1846, d. 1895). From 1877 to 1880, Mr. Smith served as County Commissioner for Mercer County. He studied medicine and in 1882 located at Rochester, Pa., where he practiced till failing health compelled him to go South in 1890. In 1892 he returned and located at Wellsville, Ohio, where he remained till his death. Mrs. Smith now resides in Allegheny, Pa. She and her family have been devoted members of the Methodist Church. Her oldest child died in infancy. The others are, Charles A. (b. 1873, d. 1886).

Francis U. (b. 1875) m. 1902 Margaret Chatelain (b. 1878). He is a master mechanic living at Allegheny, Pa., and has one son, Paul L.

Lamont B. (b. 1877) m. 1897 Florence McClain (b. 1876). He studied medicine at Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College graduating in 1898 and later doing post-graduate work at New York Post-Graduate Medical College. After practicing at Toronto, Ohio, some years he moved to Youngstown, Ohio, where he now resides. His children are Flora J. and Roy D.

Irene M. (b. 1879, d. 1886).

Harry A. (b. 1881) m. 1902 Catherine Burke. He is a master mechanic living at Allegheny, Pa., and has one child, Harry A.

George H. (b. 1883) is a clerk and resides at Allegheny, Pa.

Byron M. (b. 1887) is a clerk and resides at Allegheny, Pa.

Mary E. lives with her mother.

**Elizabeth** m. John Fyffe, a farmer, living near New Wilmington, Pa., and is the mother of two children: Anna Beulah and Albert Ashton.

**Louise** (b. 1861) m. 1881 Daniel Homer, a farmer and resides on the old homestead with her mother. Her children are: Edson M., died at 9 years of age, Susie I. and Leroy H.

**Anna** (b. 1862, d. 1886) m. 1881 J. Snyder d. 1901). Her children are: Pearl who resides in Beaver, Pa., Clarence and Homer residing at Clarksville, Pa., and Anna who resides in Pittsburg.

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**X. CATHERINE** died in childhood.

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**XI. SAMUEL** (b. 1821, d. 1906) m. 1844 Mary W. Walker (b. 1819, d. 1887). His entire life was spent on the farm in Jefferson Township, where he was born. His wife was totally blind for 25 years before her death. Both were active members of the Methodist church. He was a Democrat

and was elected to many local offices by his fellow citizens who held him in high esteem. His children are:

**Jane** m. 1868 Hiram Inman. Her children are:

Samuel, m. Dora Armour, resides at Sharon, Pa., where he is employed in the steel mills. He has two sons, Harvey Clifford and Francis.

Mary a dressmaker at Mercer, Pa.

Martin, m. Lena Homes, resides at Mercer, Pa. and has one child, Lottie H.

Frank, Fred, Harvey, Elsie, Ralph.

**Jeremiah** (b. 1845) m. 1869 Nancy Campbell. He is a farmer and lives in Jefferson Township. His children are:

Margaret (b. 1870) m. 1895 S. G. Wringer a farmer residing in Fairview Township. She has two children, Mabel V. and Russell S.

Charles (b. 1872) m. 1898 Anna Wright. Is a teamster and resides at Mercer, Pa. Has one child, Hazel. . .

Francis (b. 1881) m. 1901 Mamie Wright. Is a farmer residing near Mercer. Has two children, Helen and Susan J.

Filson and Ross, at home.

**Dorothy A.** (b. 1851) m. 1871 Fred C. Bagnall, a farmer, residing near Mercer. He was a member of Co. H, 5th Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. She is a member of the Methodist Church. Her children are Samuel W. and Edith R.

**George** (b. 1851) m. 1875 Frances Campbell (d. 1887),, m. 1893 Julia McConnell. He was a farmer adjoining that of his father. His present residence is at New Castle, where he is a contractor. By his first marriage he is the father of five children of whom the second, Iva, is married to Austin Bell. The others are named Jay, Herman, Melvin and Frances.

**Sophrona** (b. 1856) m. 1886 James R. Nelson, a farmer, residing near Mercer, Pa. Her children are, Elsie, Susan and Russell.

**Albert** (b. 1861) m. 1882 Mary Nelson. Resides on the old homestead and is engaged in farming. His children are:

Celia m. 18. . L. A. Snyder, a farmer, and resides in Jefferson Township. She has one child, Ethel L.

Lula, John C. and Anna May.

**Elizabeth, Andrew and Samuel**, children of Samuel, died in childhood.



DESCENDANTS OF MICHAEL.





## CHAPTER II.

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(b. 1777, d. 1852) m. 1806 Mary Mourer (b. 1784, d. 1876.)

- I. **JACOB** (b. 1807, d. 1891) m. 1834 Malinda Smith (d. 1895). Eldest son of Michael. Born in Lake Township. He received the slight education afforded by the common schools of the times and supplemented it with one year in the Old Mercer Academy, after which he studied surveying under John Kelly. He was Assistant Postmaster in Mercer one year, clerked in general stores there and at Williamsfield, Ohio, taught school in various districts six terms and finally settled on a farm two miles south of his birth-place where he spent the rest of his life. In politics he was a Republican and held the offices of County Auditor, County Surveyor, Justice of the Peace and School Director. In 1842 he became a charter member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Jackson Centre in which he was at once made an elder. In 1865 he united with the Coolspring Presbyterian Church in which he was an elder till his death. For ten years he was a colporteur for the Ameri-

can Bible Society and he was always active in humane and religious efforts. He was a man deeply devoted to the family and labored incessantly for a closer knitting of the ties of clan-ship among us. He was the leading promoter of the first family reunions and it was he who gathered a large part of the materials that made this book possible. There are few names that should be written larger in the grateful memories of this family than that of Jacob Zahniser. Following are his children:

**Henry Martin** (b. 1836) m. 1860 Elizabeth DeFrance (d. 1890), m. again 1897 Margaret Dewalt. "Mart", as he is familiarly called, became a blacksmith and conducted a shop near the old home till he was elected County Prothonotary in 1878. In 1882, he located on a farm in Forest County from which he removed in 1895 to Tionesta where he is now working at his trade. In politics he is a Republican. In the church he was formerly a Presbyterian but is now in a Methodist Church. His children are:

Nancy L. (b. 1861, d. 1901) m. 1883 James G. Bromley. Her children are Margaret E., Henry M., Laura M., Eva M., Josephine S. Of these the oldest married, 1904, Lowel W. Barnhart, and resides at Colville, Wash.

Her one child is named Marietta Mae.  
The others are with their father at Tionesta.

Ida Malinda (b. 1863) m. 1884 J. M. Van Derlin.  
Her children are, James Martin, Edward Archibald, Elizabeth Nancy, Leila Esther, Arthur M., Virgil Vivian. All reside at Glade Mills, Pa.

Arthur DeFrance (b. 1865) m. 1895 Sarah Carrier. He is a minister and presiding elder in the Free Methodist Church and located at Pittsburg. His children are, Ruth D., Lefa E., Bernice E. Another child, Lawrence, died in infancy (1903).

Jacob Jay (b. 1867) m. 1888 Jennie S. Ball. He is a minister in the Free Methodist Church and located at New Castle. His children are, Martha Gay, Mary E., Ralph R., Walter S., Clara A., Grace J.

Edmund S. (b. 1869) m. 1895 Adda Rice (d. 1898), m. 1900 Nellie Walters. He is a minister of the Free Methodist Church and located at Sharon. By his first marriage he has one child, Richard.

Charles A. (b. 1872) m. 1895 Nettie Thompson (d. 1900). He is a tool-dresser in the oil fields and located at Tionesta.

Ralph Allison (b. 1874) m. 1898 Ellen Kenison. He is a minister in the Free Methodist

## THE ZAHNISERS

Church and located at Tionesta. His children are, Edith M. and Clarence H.

Josephine Sabina (b. 1876) m. 1904 R. N. Randlett. Prior to her marriage she was a trained nurse practicing at Pittsburg. Her present residence is Pittsburg. Mr. Randlett is a draftsman. They have one child, Randolph.

Henry Martin Jr. (b. 1878). He resides at Pittsburg where he is employed as a polisher.

Archibald H. M. (b. 1881) m. 1903 Bertha Newton. He is a minister in the Free Methodist Church and located at Mayburg. He has two children, Elizabeth (d. 1905) and Howard C.

**Rebecca Cole [North]** (b. 1838, d. 1895) m. 1859 John North with whom she resided on a farm in Coolspring Township till the time of her death. Along with her family she was a member of the Coolspring Presbyterian Church. Following are her children:

William T. (b. 1860) m. 1887 Caroline Supplee (d. 1903). For a time he farmed in Coolspring Township but the exposure of farm life was injurious to his health and he became a bookkeeper. He is at present connected with a lumber firm in New Albin, Miss. He has one son, J. Rexford, who is a student in Fredonia Institute.

Mary Grace (b. 1861) m. 1887 D. Lawrence Mc-Millan. Her children are: M. Elesta, Lydia Mildred and Rebecca. All reside on a farm near Jackson Centre.

Malinda S. (b. 1862) m. 1886 W. Wallace Runkle. Her children are: Mary Alice (d. 1891), Helen, Thelma I. (d. 1897), Harry N. and John L. They reside on a farm in Fairview Township, and are active in the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church of which he is an elder.

Jacob Z. (b. 1864) m. 1892 Lois Caldwell. He is a farmer and resides in Coolspring Township. His children are: Kennith, Eleanor and Rebecca.

Ira C. (b. 1866, d. 1897) m. 1895 Hanna McEwen. His entire life was spent on the old homestead.

John Norman (b. 1880) m. 1903 Belle Kenison. Resides on the farm with his father.

**William F.** (b. 1839) m. 1865 Martha Mogee. He was a member of Co. F 57th P. V. from which he was discharged for physical disability. He again volunteered as a member of Co. F., 55th P. V. He became a wagon-maker and combines work at his trade with the conduct of a farm adjoining that of his father's homestead. He is a Republican and has held many

local offices. He is an elder in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Jackson Centre. Following are his children:

Mary Amanda (b. 1866) m. 1892 W. L. Donaldson, a telegraph operator, with whom she resides at Hartstown, Pa. Her children are: Dean, Stanley, Emerson, Catherine.

Catherine B. (b. 1868) m. 1900 A. M. Waid, with whom she resides on a farm near Conneaut Lake, Pa.

Ivins R. (b. 1871) m. 1893 Mabel Smith. Is a member of the firm of Newell & Co., grocers, Mahoningtown, Pa.

Alfred Glenn (b. 1874) m. 1904 Lillian Loyd. Is in the offices of the P. R. R. at New Castle, Pa. He has one child, Martha.

Lois Malinda, commonly known as "Mellie," resides with her parents.

Emma Ellen (b. 1876) m. 1902 L. F. Reeher, with whom she resides on a farm near Pardoe, Pa. She has two children named Margaret and Marian.

George Smith (b. 1879) m. 1904 Clara Frost. Is in offices of P. R. R. at New Castle, Pa. He has one child named Leona Margaret.

Frederick W. (b. 1880) m. 1904 Jennie Rowen. Is in the offices of the P. R. R. at Jamestown, Pa.

**George M.** (b. 1841) m. 1867 Margaret Rambo. The greater part of his life was spent on a farm in Coolspring Township. At present he has retired from active labor and is living at Fredonia, Pa. He has been an ardent worker in the cause of temperance and is a member of the Methodist Church. His children:

Malinda (b. 1868) m. 1886 Wesley W. Whieldon, a lumber dealer with whom she resides at Memphis, Tenn. Her children are: Harold D., Lucile M. and by adoption, Sarah.

Sarah Elizabeth (b. 1874) m. 1900 Clarence E. Wallace, Esq. (d. 1904). Since the death of her husband she has resumed the work of teaching in the public schools and is located at Bellevue, Pa. She has one child, Margaret J. R.

**Mary M.** (b. 1846, d. 1892) m. 1865 Richard Hess. She resided with her husband on a farm in Jackson Township, and later on another near Sandy Lake, Pa., till the time of her death. Her children are:

Martin Edwin (b. 1866) m. 1886 Eva Dell George (d. 1901). Most of his life has been given to the cause of education in connection with which he has enjoyed a remarkably successful career. At 15 years of age he taught his first school "in the wilds of



Forest County", at 21 he was principal of the Sandy Lake schools, and at 24 he was superintendent of the schools of the county, at which time he was said to be the youngest man holding such a position in the entire Union. He has since served as President of Volant College, principal of the Irwin High School and Superintendent of the City Schools of Sistersville, West Va. He is now editor of "The Cleveland Post," published at Cleveland, Ohio. His children are: Mary Fay (d. 1887), Hazel Meloa, George Herbert, Robert Burns, Louise Malinda.

Mary Malinda (b. 1869, d. 1870).

George Fleming (b. 1871) m. 1893 Irene Scofield, cashier of Mutual Bank of Cairo, West Va. He has one child, Olis Clark.

Bessie B. (b. 1873) m. 1894 C. Grant Cannon, Superintendent of schools at South Sharon, Pa. Mer children are: Hallis Watson, Martha Elizabeth, Mary McClure.

Harrison Claude (b. 1874).

Ellen Maude (b. 1877, d. 1897).

William V. (b. 1879, d. 1892).

Harriet Lois (b. 1880) m. 1903 J. L. Wagoner. resides at Pittsburg, Pa., and has one child, Harold Eugene.

John North (b. 1885) associated with J. L. Wag-  
oner in business at Pittsburg.

**Milton B.** (b. 1847, d. 1893) m. 1872 Rose Ann Mc-  
Curdy. In early years he learned the shoe  
maker's trade but the greater part of his life  
was spent on a farm near Jackson Centre. For  
many years he was an active member of the  
Cumberland Presbyterian Church at that  
place. His children are: Alice M., Catherine  
M., Wm. Leslie, James H. (d. 1884), all of  
whom reside at Jackson Centre, Pa.

**Margaret J.** (b. 1849) m. 1882 James McCullough,  
with whom she resides on a farm in Cool-  
spring Township. Her children are: Malinda  
E. (d. 1883), Geo. Raymond, Mary M. died  
in infancy, James Michael.

**Malinda** (b. 1852) m. 1872 W. H. Vernam. Along  
with her husband she resided several years  
at Jackson Centre, Pa., but now lives in  
Mercer, Pa., where Mr. Vernam is connected  
with many leading business enterprises. Her  
children are:

Myrtle M. (b. 1874) m. 1892 J. W. Tyrrell, who  
is associated with her father in business.  
Their children are: Eunice Irene, Lela  
Pauline, John Emerson.

Mary H. (b. 1879) m. 1902 G. J. Graham, a business man of Guadalajara, Mex. She is the mother of one child, Vernam Williams.

**Jacob M.** (b. 1853) m. 1883 Jennie Runkle (d. 1895). He has inherited the old homestead on which he resides in Jackson Township. He is a Republican and has held a number of township offices. Along with his family he is an active member in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Jackson Centre, Pa. His children are: Sarah M., Lewis Fleming, Mabel, Paul H.

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**II. MARY [Condit]** (b. 1808, d. 1836) m. 1830 John Condit b. 1803, d. 1880). Her short married life was spent in Sheakleyville, Pa., where her death occurred during a scourge of Typhus fever which also permanently wrecked the health of her husband. Her children are:

**Caroline** (b. 1831, d. 1903) m. 1855 A. W. Couse. She received what was in those times a good education. Mr. Couse was a teacher of considerable prominence and was successively instructor in a number of institutions till 1864, when he entered a banking house at St. Louis. For a number of years he has been Cashier of the Savings Bank of Tidioute, Pa. Both have been active and efficient workers in the local

churches wherever they resided. Their children are :

Ida Mary educated in the Tidioute Union Schools, at Pittsburg Female College and at Lake Erie Seminary, Painesville, Ohio. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church and was for many years a teacher of prominence at Tidioute, Pa., where she resides.

William Henry (b. 1857, d. 1871). His death resulted from injuries caused by falling from a chestnut tree.

Laura Lydia (b. 1860) m. 1882 Richard Chaffey, prominent lumberman formerly of Tidioute, Pa., now of Elkins, West Va. Both are prominent in the work of the local Presbyterian Church. Their children are: Ruth Laura, Florence Isabel.

Paul (b. 1868, d. 1868).

Howard Ambrose (b. 1871) m. 1900 Emma Neyhart. He is a graduate of Allegheny College and of Yale Law School and a rising young attorney at Cleveland, Ohio. He is the father of one child, Margaret.

**Ira M.** (b. 1833) m. 1860 Laura Carpenter (d. 1866), m. again 1872 Samantha Knox. Prominent as a minister and missionary in the Presbyterian Church. Graduated from Jefferson College in 1855. He entered the Western Theological

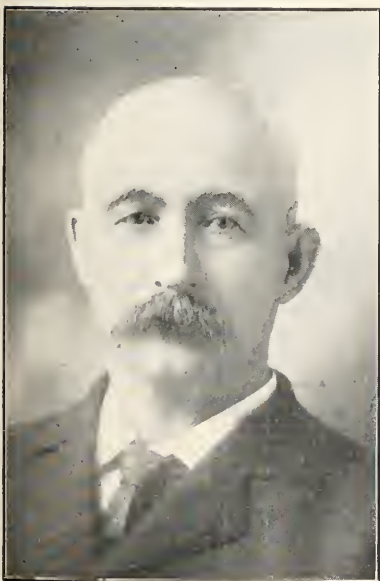
Seminary in 1856, but shortly before completing his course there he accepted a call to missionary work in Canton, China, where he began work in 1860, continuing till the failure of his wife's health compelled him to return to America, 1865. For four years he engaged in ministerial work at Girard, Pa., but in 1869 he returned to his chosen work among the Chinese, locating in California. After short periods of labor at San Francisco, Los Angeles and other points, he settled permanently at San Francisco where he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Chinese, till 1903. He is now living a retired life at Oakland, Cal. He is the author of a number of standard works, including a geography in Chinese and an Anglo-Chinese dictionary, a popular work entitled "The Chinaman as We See Him" and a number of shorter productions. His children are:

Mary Ellen (b. 1862) m. 1891 Laverne Kibbe. She was born in Canton, China, and educated in California, graduating from Ellis College, Los Angeles. She resides at Lima, Ohio. Her children are: Laura Ellen, Harmon Condit, Adelaide.

John Warren (b. 1864, d. 1884).



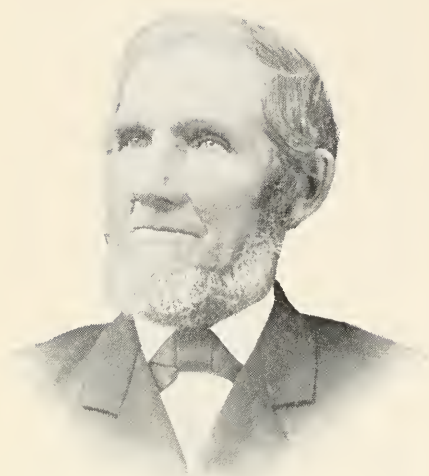
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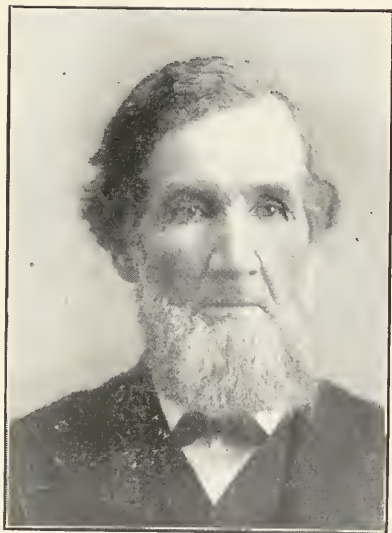
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III. **WILLIAM** (b. 1811, d. 1877) m. 1841 Ruth Carnahan (d. 1894). He received a common school education which he supplemented with much private study. For a number of years he taught school in the winter, working on the farm during the summer months. At the time of his marriage he settled on a farm three miles north of the old homestead, where he resided till his death. He was possessed of a remarkable memory and was a close student of history. In his young manhood he united with the Coolspring Presbyterian Church in which he was an elder, later holding the same position in the church at Sheakleyville. In politics he was a Republican. His children are:

**Thompson** (b. 1842) m. 1872 Alma Young. After spending his early life on the farm, he enlisted in Co. E., 57th Reg. P. V., and again in Co. F. of the same regiment, being made a sergeant and serving till the close of the war. He was once wounded in battle. Since the war he has been engaged in the lumber business. He is Republican and lives at Riceville, Crawford County. His children are,

Cora Mabel m. 1903 Lee Southworth.

Ruth Ella (d. 1878), Wm. Matthew (d. 1879).

Queene Alice N. m. 1898 Fred W. Ames resides at Centerville, Pa., has two children: War-



ren P., died in infancy (1904), and Marjory A.

Clover (d. 1883).

Roscoe Conklin, a machinist in Chicago, Ill.

R. Delia resides with her parents.

**Michael Carnahan** (b. 1844) m. 1874 Emma Young. Along with his brother he enlisted in Co. F., 57th Reg. P. V., in which he was a corporal, and served with distinction throughout the war. After the war he engaged in the lumber business. He is a Republican and resides at Mercer, Pa., where he is now County Treasurer. He is the father of one daughter, Nellie G. (b. 1880) m. 1900 Rev. Arthur S. Dascomb, a Congregationalist minister. She resides in Austin, Minn., and has one child, Edmund Brooks.

**Fidelia** (b. 1846, d. 1876). For a number of years she was a successful teacher in the common school.

**Elizabeth** (b. 1850) m. 1871 John B. McCullough (d. 1896). Since her marriage she has resided in Coolspring Township. Her children are: William Z., a mechanic in Lincoln, Nebraska, Leonard D., (d. . . .), Paxton K., Bessie I., m. 1899 to H. B. Vogan, of Franklin, Pa., Jesse I., Michael Plummer.

**Margaret** (b. 1851) m. 1878, John C. Canon. Resides on a farm near Stoneboro, Pa. Her children are:

Claude I. (b. 1879) Medical student.

Carrie I. (b. 1879) m. 1901 O. M. Rhodes of Stoneboro, Pa. Her children are: William Lawrence and Claude O.

Jessie E., teacher in Public schools, Mabel E., Rama E., Ruth Z.

**Wm. Plummer** (b. 1854) m. 1878 Lottie Slater. During most of his life he has been engaged in mercantile pursuits. At present he resides at Mercer, Pa.

**Ruth Emma** (b. 1856, d. 1858).

**Ira C.** (b. 1858) m. 1880 Lizzie Stright. The following are his children:

Edna V. (1882) m. 1901 C. V. Patton, a telegraph operator of Conneaut Lake, Pa., and has two children, Rita Imelda and Mary E.

Mary resides in Greenville, Pa., Wilbur, (b. 1886) resides in Greenville, Pa.

**Philip Kearney** (b. 1862, d. 1863).

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**IV. JOHN** (b. 1813, d. 1900) m. 1885 Susan Runkle (d. 1899). This is another Zahniser whose life was an honor to the family. Few men have been priv-

ileged to have as many friends and as few enemies. His entire life was spent in Lake Township where he was engaged in farming. In early life he taught school several terms. He was Justice of the Peace for nearly fifty years and secretary of the Cool-spring Valley Fire Insurance Co. He was a member and elder in the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian church in which he had made the remarkable record of having heard every sermon, save one, preached in the church during a period of 35 years. This was made possible by his exceptionally good health. During the whole of his long life he never knew a day of sickness till finally, with life's forces spent, he laid wearily down to his long rest. His children were:

**Michael M.** (b. 1856) m. 1879 Caroline Pool. Resides in Stoneboro, Pa. Dealer in farming implements and farm hardware. His children are: Zella Mae, a graduate of Slippery Rock Normal School and Ohio Normal Union now teaching school, and Ray

**David Brainard** (b. 1859, d. 1863).

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**V. DAVID** (b. 1815, d. 1904) m. 1843 Elizabeth North (d. 1893). Youngest son of Michael and Mary, he inherited the old homestead where he resided the greater part of his life, his last years being spent on a smaller farm a half mile farther east.

He was a man of strong, positive character. Few men are permitted for so long a period to wield such an influence on a community as he enjoyed. In politics he was a republican and he held a number of local offices at various times. He was a member and for 45 years an elder in the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church in which he occupied almost every other office a layman is ever called to fill. For over 30 years he taught a Bible class in the Sunday school, and his face was seldom absent from any of the services. He was a strong man physically never being sick a day during his long and strenuous life. The following are his children:

**William Arthur** (b. 1844 d. 1903) m. 1867 Jane Bromley. During the war he served as a member of Co. F. 55th, P. V., returning at its close and settling on a part of his father's farm, where he spent the rest of his life. For years he was a leading figure in the community, holding many positions of trust such as various township offices, executor of wills, secretary of Coolspring Valley Fire Insurance Co., director in Mercer County Agricultural Society, and various offices in the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church of which he was long a leading member. His children are:

Laura V. (b. 1870) m. 1898 Jas. W. McEwen, a farmer, residing in Coolspring Township. Her children are: Mary Lynn and Clair.

Charles Reed (b. 1873) m. 1896 Pearl Stroud. Graduated from Grove City College and the University of Chicago. A minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, formerly located at Chicago and at Sorento, Ill., later in charge of Synodical mission work in Pennsylvania, and now pastor of the Third Church of Pittsburg, Pa. His children are: Virgil Stroud, Pearl Charline (d. 1901), Chalmers.

David Michael (b. 1876, d. 1879), Bessie V. (b. 1879, d. 1880).

Mary Grace (b. 1881) m. 1906 Walter H. Harrison. Graduated from Fredonia Institute and for some years a teacher in the public schools. Resides near her girlhood home.

J. Byron (b. 1885) m. 1906 Nita Dierker, a farmer, located on the old homestead.

**Michael L.** (b. 1846) m. 1867 Susan Bell (d. 1901), m. again 1903 Estella Barber. Early in life he left the farm to enter merchantile pursuits, locating successively at North's Mills, Jackson Centre, Perrine's Corners and Sandy Lake. At the latter place and at Stoneboro, Pa., he engaged in banking till 1891. His present resi-

dence is at Pittsburg, Pa., where he is engaged in the production of oil. He has always been active in the religious and philanthropic work. He was the organizer and teacher of a Bible Class of more than 200 members in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Shady avenue, Pittsburg. His children are:

Harry B. (b. 1870) m. 1898 Rose Bayard. Lives in Pittsburg, Pa., and is engaged with his father in the production of oil. His children are: Helen B., Mary S. and Jack B.

D. Lester (b. 1872). Resides at Mansfield, Ohio, and is engaged in manufacturing.

Mabel O. resides with her father in Pittsburg where she is prominent in musical circles as a contralto singer.

Afton J. (b. 1884) a student in Princeton University.

Mary Ethel resides with her father. Elizabeth is the child of Estella.

**Mary J.** (b. 1848) m. 1882 Frank M. Fleming, with whom she resides on a farm in Jackson Township. She is prominent in the work of the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church of which she has been a member since girlhood.

**Catherine E.** (b. 1850) m. 1878 to R. Dunn Porter, a farmer, with whom she resided for some years

near Sandy Lake, Pa., later moving to a location near Sheakleyville, where they still live. Her children are:

Bessie M. resides with her parents and is engaged in teaching.

Nellie B. (b. 1882) m. 1904 Harry Lawrence, associate editor of the Grove City Reporter.

Carrie Maud, located in Pittsburg, Pa., and engaged in teaching music.

Francis D. (d. 1889), Bertha A., Lucile G., David Z. (d. 1893), William H. (d. 1897).

**Maria N.** (b. 1852) m. 1892 John B. Hogue (d. 1904). Resides on a farm, the late home of her husband, near New Vernon, Pa.

**Caroline E.** (b. 1855) m. 1886 John C. Hamilton. Educated in Waynesburg College, she was for many years prominent as a teacher in various parts of the county. Since her marriage she has resided on a farm in Lake Township. She is active in the work of the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Her children are: Roy Kennedy, Ruth E., Paul North and David Donald.

**John Ira** (b. 1858) m. 1882 Della Stroud. His entire life has been spent on the old homestead where he engaged in farming. He is an active worker in the Bethany C. P. Church, and has held



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REV. IRA. M. CONDIT  
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G. F. HESS  
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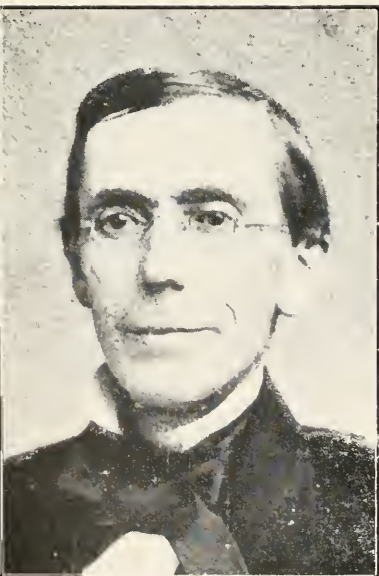
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WILLIAM NORTH AND WIFE

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REV. JAMES MONTGOMERY AND WIFE

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many other positions of trust in the community. His children are: Howard Stroud, Ralph, David, William. There was also another child that died in infancy.

**Sarah Melissa** graduated from the Edinboro State Normal School. She was a teacher for a number of years till the increasing age of her parents demanded her presence at home. She is now a milliner at Stoneboro, Pa.

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**VI. CATHERINE** (b. 1822, d. 1889) m. 1844 William North, a prominent farmer of Fairview Township, where she resided till her death. She was a faithful member of the Coolspring Presbyterian Church of which her husband was a long time elder. Her children are:

**Samuel H.** (b. 1845) m. 1870 Margaretta Moore. The earlier years of his married life were spent on a part of his father's farm from which he removed to another near Greenville, Pa. In later years he has resided at Slippery Rock and New Castle, and is now located at Freedom, Pa. His children are:

Albert Lamont (b. 1873) m. 1899 Eva M. Howe. Resides at New Castle and is engaged as a shipping clerk. Has one child, Ethel Leola.

Elizabeth May (b. 1879) m. 1901 Carrol O. Uber,

an undertaker, with whom she resides at Slippery Rock, Pa. She has one child, Katharine Margarette.

**Mary E.** resides with her brother at the old home.

**Michael C.** m. 1880 Elizabeth L. Long. His earlier years were spent on a farm adjoining that of his father from which he moved to another near Mercer, where he now resides. His children are: Kate B., Clifford J. and Nellie E.

**William M.** (b. 1852) m. 1888 Amanda Cross (d. 1890), m. 1894 Emma Burdett. Conducts a general store at Norths Mills where he was postmaster till the office was displaced by rural delivery service. Is a justice of the peace and has held many other positions of trust. By his first marriage he had one child, Emma M. (d. 1890). By his second marriage his children are: Mary C. and an infant (d. 1901).

**Maria G.** m. 1874 Ira G. Morford, with whom she resides on a farm in Fairview Township. Her children are:

Mary Alice m. 1901 H. A. Pearson. Resides at Jackson Centre, Pa. Her children are: Ralph A. and Minnie.

William S., Ina C., Clarence.

**John C.** m. 1887 Anna Miller. Resides on the old homestead. His children are: Clarice M. and Condit M.

DESCENDANTS OF VALENTINE.



### CHAPTER III.

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(b. 1782, d. 1866) m. 1806 Elizabeth White (d. 1856).

I. **MARY ANN** was the oldest of the family and died in childhood; the dates of her birth and death are unknown.

II. **JOHN W.** (b. 1809, d. 1880) m. 1837 Ann Serena (d. 1900). Learned the stone mason's trade and located near Kilgore, Pa., where he lived some ten years, afterward moving to a small farm near Jackson Centre, where he remained till his death. He had two daughters.

**Mary Ann** (b. 1838) m. 18. . Wm. Brocklehurst, with whom she resides on a farm in Jackson Township. Her children are:

George E. (b. 1865) m. 1887 May M. Lyons and resides on a farm in Lake Township. His children are: Minnie I., Ray M., Mary L., Ralph, infant (d. 1903).

Anna E. m. 1894 J. C. Miller, and resides at the old homestead of John W. Zahniser. Her

children are: Mary E., William C., Ruth L., Byron.

Mary E. m. 1901 C. W. Stroud, with whom she resides on a farm near Greenville. She has one child, Homer Charles.

John W. at home.

Henry P. (b. 1871, d. 1874).

Ida C. m. W. H. Oakes, and resides at Leesburg, Pa. Her children are: Earl W. and Caleb Norman.

Archie D. at home.

**Leonora** (b. 1842) m. 1866 A. P. Turner (d. 1901), a stone mason, and resides on a farm in Jackson Township. Her children are:

John A. (b. 1867).

Sarah D. (b. 1869) m. 1898 D. M. Boulton, with whom she resides in New Castle. Her children are: Elizabeth G., Katie J., David P. (d. 1898), Margaret H.

Robt. Warren (b. 1871) m. 1896 Mary I. Clark. Is a carpenter and resides at Jackson Centre, Pa. His children are: Adda D., Robt. A.

George H. (b. 1874) m. 1899 Mary J. Geldis. Resides at New Castle. His children are: Goldie L. (d. 1901), Silvia V.

Leonora D. (b. 1877) m. 1904 C. M. Flickner and resides at Sandy Lake.

Margaret A., Rhoden T. (b. 1883). Mary G.,  
Lewis Z. (1890).

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**III. SARAH** (b. 1811, d. 1889) m. 1834 Wm. Ball (b. 1808, d. 1883). Mr. Ball came of a pioneer family in the eastern part of Mercer County, and after his marriage located with his wife on a piece of new ground in Worth Township. Here they spent their long lives in industry, thrift and happiness. She was an active member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Kilgore, Pa. Following are her children:

**Valentine Z.** (b. 1835) m. 1858 Susan Griffin (d. 1879), m. again Mary White. He learned the blacksmith's trade and located in Sherwin Junction, Kansas, where by his first marriage he had five children as follows:

Oscar F., who is a carpenter and located in Michigan. He married Dollie Wharton and has two children, Jay and Eva.

Caleb A. m. Agnes Miller. Conducts a grocery store at Princeton, Pa.

Eugene, died at the age of 18.

Elizabeth m. William Corn and lives at Independence, Kansas. Her children are: Roy, Ellen, Albert, Bertha.

David died in childhood.



The following are children of his second wife:  
Ella I. m. Wesley Fee, a farmer in Kansas. Her  
children are: Alpha P. and Eugene P.

George m. Maude Barrick and has two sons,  
George C. and Wm. V.

Nora m. Lewis Fee, a farmer in Kansas. Her  
children are: Narcissa and Calvin.

Mary m. Claude Masters, a farmer in Kansas  
and has one son, Wm. Clair.

Narcissa m. Edward Shearer and resides at  
Roslyn, Wash. She has one son named  
Beriah.

Frank m. Mamie Umphries. Resides at Sher-  
win Junction, Kan.

**Caleb** (b. 1837, d. 1858).

**Jacob M.** m. 1882 Mary E. Morrison. He was a  
sergeant of Co. G., 100th P. V., and served  
with distinction throughout almost the entire  
war. He participated in more than a score  
of important battles and was twice wounded.  
At the close of the war he became a farmer  
on a part of the old homestead where he re-  
mained till 1904 when he moved to Grove City  
where he now resides. He has one daughter,  
Ora.

**Elizabeth** (b. 1852, d. 1900) m. 1860 V. G. Hunter  
and resided near the old home. She had one

daughter, Arminta m. S. R. Kilgore, who has one child, Emory.

**Henry** (b. 1844, d. 1867). He enlisted at the age of 18 with the 2nd Heavy Artillery, but was afterwards transferred to Co. A., 12th Provisional Infantry. He was in a number of important battles and was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness. His death resulted from consumption contracted while in the army.

**Rebecca A.** m. 1876 W. G. Kinneston and resides at Utica, Pa. Three children have been born: Blondell (d. 1879), Delbert (d. 1881) and Sarah.

**Phoebe J.** m. F. D. Bissell and resides on a farm near Clarks Mills, Pa. Prior to her marriage she was for many years a successful school teacher. Her children are: Clyde E., Belle, Clair L., Morton.

**Sarah** m. 1879 B. Medberry (b. 1855, d. 1903), and resides on a farm near the old homestead. Her children are: George E. and Etta F.

**Beriah** is a successful farmer, unmarried, and resides at the old homestead, which he has developed into a model farm. He is a Republican and takes an active interest in politics.

**Nettie** has been a teacher for a number of years and now resides with her brother, Beriah.

- IV. **JAMES** (b. 1814, d. 1889) m. 1839 Elizabeth Supplee (b. 1821, d. 1903). He took up the occupation of farming and located on a part of his father's farm south of the old home. He was residing here when the war broke out. He at once enlisted along with two of his sons. He was placed in Col. I, 57th P. V., and was made a corporal. After a short service he was taken prisoner. Prison hardships undermined his health, so that on his being exchanged he was at once paroled and returned home where he was made captain of a company of home guards. Some years later he moved to the original Zahniser homestead in Lake Township, and still later he resided at "Five Points" from which place he moved to his last residence in Forest County. "The Captain" as he was commonly called, was for many years a striking figure in the community, an ardent Republican, and full of loyalty to the Zahniser connection. He was father of the following children besides two others who died in infancy:

**Rachel** m. 18. . Jonathan Wetzell (d. 1901), a farmer, living near Cochran, Pa., where she still resides.

**Uriah** (b. 1841, d. 1899) m. 1873 Melissa DeFrance (d. 1897). He was a corporal of Co. D., 211 P. V., and was wounded at the Battle of Petersburg, Va. After the war he engaged

in farming in Lake Township, later moving to Forest Co., where he died. Following are his children:

Arthur N. (b. 1875) an oil driller residing at Marion, Ind.

Daisy E. (b. 1878) m. 1900 Harry Canfield and lives in Tionesta. Has one child, DeFrance.

Valentine J. died in boyhood.

Franklin A. an oil driller living at Marion, Ind.

Dewitt a student at Tionesta, Pa., and an infant (dead).

**Valentine** (b. 1843, d. 1862). Volunteered with his father and brother as a member of Co. E., 57th P. V., and died of fever on the field.

**Nancy** m. 1870 William Forker (d. 1893). Resides in Jackson Centre. Three children were born, of whom two died in infancy. The other, Bessie, married (1898) Geo. E. Hamilton, and resides in Jackson Centre, Pa. She has two boys, Wm. James and George Albert.

**Mary** m. John Hay and lives at Fergus Falls, Minn. She has six children, named:

Winnie m. John Whitaker, lives at Minneapolis, Minn. Is the mother of two girls and one boy.

## THE ZAHNISERS

Minnie m. Eugene Flint and lives at Minneapolis. Is the mother of one girl and one boy.

Elizabeth, Nannie, Nellie and John H. at home.

**Elizabeth** (d. 1887) m. James Bestwick. Her children are :

Mary Ellen m. 1892 John C. Waddell, an electrician, and resides at Mercer. She has four children : Harold, Hazel, John, Ruth.

Myrtle m. 1892 Chas. Wilcox, a farmer, of Cochran, Pa. Has one child, Harry.

Harry (b. 1872, d. 1902) m. 1892 Cloe Hillard. His two children, Mabel and Claude reside with their mother in Tidioute, Pa.

Valentine m. 1903 Flora Taylor.

James m. 1904 Anna Whitlach.

May m. 1905 Leroy Patterson.

Elizabeth m. 1905 James Wilcox.

Clyde is unmarried and resides with his parents.

**Franklin** (b. 1852) m. 1875 Kate Clark. Is a farmer and resides near Tidioute, Pa. His children are :

Valentine m. 1897 Mollie L. Mellon (d. 1900). Clerk, residing at Tidioute, Pa. Has one child, Naoma.

James is a farmer. Resides with his father.

Ida I. m. 1902 Earl Boughton, a farmer, near Tidioute, Pa.

Edna E. m. 1901 Joseph E. Wilson, a farmer, near Oil City, Pa.

Sarah M. at home.

**Nathan** m. 1885 Alice Haines. He is a sawyer and lives at East Hickory, Pa. He has two boys, Valentine Delbert and Leslie Eugene.

**Ann** m. 1875 Aaron Foutz, living at Fredonia, N. Y. Her children are:

Bert F. m. 1904 Mary Austin and resides at Fredonia, N. Y.

Jeannette m. 1903 Harry Draggett, resides at Fredonia, N. Y., and has one child, Leon M.

Bessie S., Lulu at home and Mabel (d. 1879) and James (d. 1904).

V. **JACOB N.** (b. 1816, d. 1890) m. 1848 Mary Ann Moore (d. 1888). His earlier years were spent in farming which he pursued in a number of places in Mercer, Venango and Crawford Counties. Following are his children:

**Liveria** (b. 1848, d. 1879) was a successful school teacher for many years.

**Andrew J.** (b. 1850) m. 1892 Eliza Garr. He is located in Lima, Ohio.

**Oscar** (b. 1852) lives in California. Gold miner.

**Arminta** (b. 1853, d. 1868) was a successful school teacher.

**Sarah Ann** (b. 1854) m. Robert Agnew, a blacksmith, residing at Titusville, Pa. Their children are: George J., Lewis R. and David.

**Melissa** a chef residing at Titusville, Pa.

**Nannie** a nurse residing at Polk, Pa.

**VI. ALEXANDER** died in infancy.

**VII. SCHULTZ** died at the age of 25.

**VIII. REBECCA** (b. 1818, d. 1889) m. 1860 John Lani-gan (d. 1891) with whom she resided on the old homestead till her death. There were no children.

**IX. MARY ANN** (d. 1893). Her life was spent on the farm where she was born.

DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM.





## CHAPTER IV.

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(b. 1789, d. 1856) m. 1814 Eleanor Stotler (b. 1790, d. 1852)

- I. **JOHN L.** (b. 1816, d. 1904) m. 1846 Lucy North (b. 1822, d. 1897). The eldest son of William and Eleanor. He managed to secure sufficient education to teach school which he did for nine terms, after which he located on a farm in Jackson Township where he spent the remainder of his life. From early life he took an active interest in everything looking to the welfare of the community. For 32 years he was a school director and his interest in the cause of education was constantly in evidence. In politics he was a Democrat. He served one year as county auditor and filled various township offices including a service of thirty years as justice of the peace. He was a man of giant stature, strong character and amiable disposition, who enjoyed the confidence and respect of a wide circle of friends. Like many others of his generation he had a passionate love for the family to which he belonged and he seemed to have no greater joy than in laboring for its welfare. The following are his children:

**William N.** (b. 1850) m. 1892 Mary Westlake, with whom he resides near the old homestead and is engaged in farming. He has held a number of positions of trust and is now a school director thus following his father in the office he had held so long.

**Richard Johnson** (b. 1854) m. 1901 Julia Whistler. After graduating from Iron City Business College in 1872, he began business as a clerk in Mercer. In 1882 he was elected county recorder. At the end of his term of office he entered the grocery business in Mercer, continuing till 1887 when he formed a partnership with J. N. Donaldson in general mercantile business. From 1894 to 1898 he was postmaster at Mercer, Pa., since which time he has been connected with Luce & Manning, wool dealers. His home is at Mercer, Pa.

**J. Madison** (b. 1855, d. 1881).

**Dan W.** (b. 1862) m. 1894 Lu Stewart. Was educated in Grove City College and Iron City Business College; taught school for a time and then entered the general store of Donaldson, Zahniser & Co., where he remained till 1891, since which time he has been teller in the First National Bank of Mercer, Pa. He has one child, John Stewart.

**G. Albert** (b. 1867) m. 1899 Marie McCloy. Was educated in Grove City College and Iron City Business College. After teaching a number of terms he entered the Pittsburg office of the Johnston Harvester Co., remaining twelve years. At present he is a traveling salesman and resides at Mercer.

**Kate M.** educated in Grove City College, she entered the profession of teaching. After ten years in the school room, she now resides at the old home.

**Samuel S., Amanda M., Mary E., Eva L.** reside at the old home.

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**II ANDREW JACKSON** (b. 1818, d. 1892) m. 1848 Nancy Hosack (d. 1851) "Jackson" spent his entire life in Jackson Township. In his earlier years he taught school and in 1842 bought the farm adjoining that of John L., on which he spent the remainder of his life. In politics he was a democrat and filled many positions of trust. His chief interest centered in his chosen profession and he came to be recognized as one of the most progressive farmers in the community. His one child died in infancy.

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**III. MICHAEL** (b. 1820, d. 1899) m. 1849 Margaret Hogg (d. 1888). He was a farmer by occupation and until 1891 lived on the farm of his father in

Jackson Township. At that time he went to live with his sons in Washington, Pa., where he made his home till his death. He was a life long Democrat and raised all his boys true to that faith. His children are as follows:

**Andrew Jackson** (b. 1849) m. 1872 Sarah McCullough. In early manhood he learned the machinist's trade at Greenville, Pa., and afterwards opened a shop at Foxburg. From the latter place he moved to Washington, Pa., where he founded the extensive shops with which he is still connected. He has invented a number of valuable mechanical appliances. His children are:

Margaret E. (b. 1873) m. 1891 Wm. D. Brightwell, principal of the public schools of New Brighton, Pa. Her children are: Jack H. (d. 1893), Grace, Wilbur F., Wm. N.

Charles M. (b. 1876) m. 1898 Bessie Hallam. Is a machinist and connected with the shops founded by his father. His children are: George H., Donald J.

Mary B. (b. 1880) m. 1903 John C. Steele, a business man of Washington, Pa.

Francis E. (d. 1882), Sarah Idella and Florence Elsie at home.

**Eleanor A.** m. 1874 Charles Bromley. Resides at Washington, Pa. Her children are:

Sarah Jane m. 1901 John S. Andrews, an insurance agent of Washington, Pa. Has two daughters, Mary Bithynia and Jean.

M. Catherine m. 1901 James W. P. Hart, editor of the Washington (Pa.) Democrat. Her children are: Eleanor and Evelyn.

William J. m. 1903 Wilhemina Harsh. Is a machinist and resides at Washington, Pa. Has one daughter, Helen Maude.

John Z. m. 1903 Mary Swingle. Is a machinist. Resides at Washington, Pa. Has one daughter, Opal Alydia.

Charles M., a blacksmith, at Waynesburg, Pa., and James Archibald and Raymond Valentine, with their mother at Washington, Pa.

**Robert C.** (b. 1853) m. 1874 Mary King. Is a farmer by occupation. For a number of years he was located on a part of his father's farm. At present he resides near Pardoe, Pa. His children are:

Adda B. m. 1899 Ben A. Dye, with whom she lives near Jackson Centre. Her children are: Roland A. and R. Paul.

Nannie E. (b. 1879) m. 1901 James H. Everhart. Made her home with her aunt, Mrs. R. E. Heasley, in Mercer, till her marriage. Graduated from the Mercer High School in 1899,

## THE ZAHNISERS

and now resides on a farm near Jackson Center, Pa.

Mary Edna m. 1903 Ed. C. Campbell of Pardoe, Pa.

John H., a machinist of Waynesburg, Pa.,  
Beulah E. and Alfred J. at home.

**William S.** (b. 1856) m. 1883 Ada Alexander. After some years spent in farming on a part of the old homestead, he entered the machine shop with his brother, A. J., at Washington, Pa. He is now a member of the firm of Zahniser Bros., machinists, at Waynesburg. His children are:

Sarah J., stenographer; Clarence A., machinist;  
Cora B., May J., Josephine P., Norman M.  
and Margaret I., all of Waynesburg.

**M. Rudolph** (b. 1859) m. 1887 Winifred E. Lowry. Resides at Washington, Pa., where he owns and operates a foundry. His children are: Leroy S., Julia M., Wilda M., another, Cecil died in infancy.

**Valentine O.** (b. 1863) m. 1897 May B. Beucler. Educated at Grove City College, and a teacher for several years. Resides at Washington, Pa., where he is manager of the firm of Zahniser Bros., machinists.

**John N.** (b. 1867) m. 1889 Lottie Edwards (d. 1902), m. 1905 Mae Edwards. Resides at Waynesburg, Pa., where he is a member of the firm of Zahniser Bros., machinists. His children are: Bertha M. and Zella E.

**R. Mont. J.** (b. 1869) m. 1896 Minnie Caldwell. Is a mechanical engineer, associated with the Pittsburg Gage & Supply Co., and resides at Washington, Pa. His children are: Sarah E. and Margaret Minnie.

**Bithynia C.** resides with her sister, Eleanor, at Washington, Pa., and is engaged in clerking.

IV. **CATHERINE F.** died in infancy.

V. **WILLIAM NORTH** (b. 1824, d. 1850).

VI. **CATHERINE** (b. 1826, d. 1899) m. 1849 James Hosack (b. 1823, d. 1854), a farmer and mill owner at what is known as "Hosack's Mill" near Jackson Centre, Pa. After the death of her husband she and her children resided with her brother, A. J., where her two sons still live. Her children are:

**Thomas O.** (b. 1851) m. 1894 Jennie (Gallagher) Hess. He is a prominent farmer widely known for his advocacy of the most advanced methods of farming. He is also active in local politics, being a Democrat.



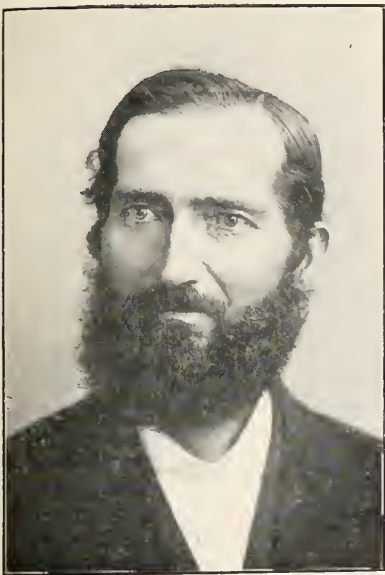
**Ella** (b. 1854, d. 1895) was a life-long invalid.

**William J.** (b. 1853) is associated with his brother in farming.

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**VII. VALENTINE** (b. 1828) m. 1861 Margaret J. Patton (d. 1893). In early life he learned the cabinet maker's trade at which he worked in Mercer, till 1852 when he entered the Mercer Academy, later studying at Westminster College. In 1854 he began teaching in the public schools after which he taught in Conneautville Academy and at Lexington, Ky., where he was principal of the Morton School. With the breaking out of the war he returned north and entered mercantile life in Mercer where he continued till 1880. He then located at Bradford, Pa., where he was manager of a gas company with offices at Eldred, Pa., until the latter part of 1905. He now resides with his daughter, Mrs. Ferry at Auburn, N. Y. Following are his children:

**William H.** (b. 1866). He received a business education and began business as a shipping clerk in Bradford, Pa. Here he resided till 1891 when he removed to Pittsburg, Pa. He is now engaged in the production of oil with extensive holdings in West Virginia, the Southwest and various other fields.



AMOS ZAHNISER  
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**Catherine** (b. 1869) m. 1905 William I. Ferry, a civil and mechanical engineer with whom she resides at Auburn, N. Y. She is a graduate of Bradford High School and was educated in art at Whitby Female College, Canada.

**George L.** (b. 1864, d. 1889) and **John Patton**, died in childhood.

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**VIII. BITHYNIA** (b. 1831) m. 1858 Samuel Hosack (d. 1905), a farmer, with whom she resided near Pardoe, Pa. Of her four children, the two oldest, **Eleanor** and **William**, died in childhood. The others are:

**Catherine** m. 1887 F. H. Hawn, who is a prominent merchant of Mercer, Pa. She is the mother of one child, E. Leland.

**Edwin** m. 1894 Mary Daugherty. Is a farmer and resides at the old home. His children are: Harry, Catherine, Mabel, Pauline and Edwin.

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**IX. RICHARD M. J.** (b. 1836) m. 1859 Elizabeth Hurst (d. 1883) m. 1885 Lillian Sheriff. While yet a mere boy, he entered the employ of Henry Forker druggist, at Mercer, where he remained till 1857 when he became a merchant, later engaging in the lumber business. In 1879 he moved to Somerset County, in 1883 to Mt. Pleasant,

Westmoreland County, and in 1886 to Greensburg, where he resided till 1901. At all these places he was a lumber dealer. Since 1901 he has resided in Pittsburg where he is a real estate agent. He is a Republican and a member of the Presbyterian Church. His children are:

**Harry H.** (b. 1863) m. 1890 Mary Swem. Resides at Greensburg, Pa., where he is engaged in general contracting. His children are: Harry (b. 1893), Frank R. (b. 1894) and Wendell S. (b. 1898).

**Frank** (b. 1866) m. 1893 Jeannette Suydam. Resides at Greensburg, Pa., where he is engaged in the practice of dentistry. His children are: Elizabeth and Eleanor.

**Bertha** (b. 1869, d. 1886). Met with a tragic death by being run down by a train while carriage-riding with her affianced lover.

**Mary** (b. 1878) m. 1899 John S. Lightcap, an attorney, residing at Latrobe, Pa., with offices in Greensburg. Her children are: John S. Jr. and an infant daughter.

**Richard S.** (b. 1886). Resides with his father and is engaged in railroading, being on the official staff of the P. R. R., with his office in the Union Station, Pittsburg.

DESCENDANTS OF JACOB.



## CHAPTER V.

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(b. 1792, d. 1852) m. 1816 Catherine Wright (b. 1790, d. 1861).

**I. MARGARET** (b. 1817, d. 1897) m. 1854 Rev. James Montgomery (d. 1871). Her early life was spent in Mercer where she was educated in the Mercer Academy. On her marriage she located at Clarion, Pa., where her husband was long the esteemed pastor of the Presbyterian Church, it being the only charge he ever held. There she remained till her death, active in every good work, especially that of the church to which her life was so deeply devoted, and exerting a strong influence over the lives of a wide circle of friends. Following are her children:

**Catherine Z.** (b. 1855) m. 1885 Thomas Raine. She was educated in Hollidaysburg Seminary where she graduated in 1874. After her marriage she resided in Clarion till 1891 when the family removed to Empire, Pa., remaining there till 1905 when they moved to Evanwood, W. Va., where they now reside. Her



children are: James Montgomery, a student at Lehigh University; Mary Zahniser, a student at Birmingham, Pa.; Paul W. (d. 1888), Joseph W. and J. Thomas.

**Mary S.** (b. 1859) m. 1898 Lucian B. Wilson, a lumber dealer, with whom she resides at Creston, Iowa. She has two children: James M. and Margaret C.

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**II. WILLIAM** (b. 1821, d. 1901) m. 1858 Elizabeth Caldwell (d. 1869), m. 1871 Caroline Forster (d. 1873). Was born in Mercer, Pa., where he was actively engaged in mercantile pursuits for many years. His eyes began failing some twenty years before his death, which compelled him to retire. For fifteen years he was totally blind, which misfortune he bore with patience. He was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, and took a live interest in all public interests. The following are his children, of whom the first three were by his first wife:

**James Edward** died in 1865 at the age of 6 years.

**Catharine Elizabeth** (b. 1862, d. 1887) m. 1886 Milton Kerr (d. 1895), with whom she resided in Omaha, Nebraska, until her death. She was the mother of one child, Bessie Z., who resides with her grandfather, Mr. A. J. Kerr of Mercer, Pa.

**Mary** m. 1900 Paul Terhune, a traveling salesman for J. M. Hastings Lumber Co., of Pittsburg, Pa., with whom she resides in Mercer, Pa.

**Sara Forster** resides with her sister, Mrs. Terhune in Mercer, Pa.

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**III. GEORGE W.** (b. 1823, d. 1889) m. 1854 Jane Forker (d. 1859), m. 1864 Kate Gaston (d. 1864), m. 1866 Mrs. Elizabeth McGill. Was educated in the old Mercer Academy and Washington & Jefferson College where he graduated in 1846 in the same class with James G. Blaine. The year following he tutored in that institution after which he conducted a classical school in Lexington, Ky., for about two years. He then took a course of study in Princeton Theological Seminary and soon after entered the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, locating at Conneautville, Pa., where he remained eight years. He then removed to Huntingdon City where he preached from 1859 to 1876 when he returned to Conneautville for a second pastorate of one year. Thereafter he took no regular pastorate but resided in Mercer and supplied various churches for short periods. Both prior to and during his ministry he gave much time to teaching in public and private schools. The following are his children, of whom the eldest was the daughter of his first wife, and the others were his last wife's children :

**Mary** (b. 1856) m. 1882 Herman Frankel, a merchant and banker, of Mercer, where they reside. She is the mother of one child: Margarethe Clara.

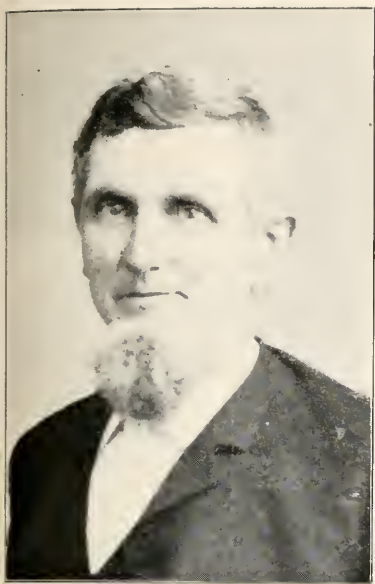
**George B.** (b. 1868) m. 1902 Ruth Agnew. He is a graduate of Lehigh University. He is a civil engineer, with offices in New Castle, Pa. He has one child: Elizabeth.

**Albert W.** (b. 1882) m. 1905 Hannah O. Barton, is a graduate of Lehigh University. Is a mechanical engineer and resides at Avalon, Pa.

**Catherine G.** resides with her mother in Mercer.

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**IV. MICHAEL** (b. 1830) m. 1854 Christiana McGill. He was educated in the public schools of Mercer, Pa., and was a student of medicine at Philadelphia when his father's death compelled him to return to Mercer, where along with his brother, William, he took control of his father's store. In 1864 he entered the banking business with which he is still connected, being now vice president of the Merchants and Manufacturers National Bank of Sharon, Pa. He is an active member of the Presbyterian Church and has for half a century been prominent in Free Masonry in which he has occupied some of the highest chairs. He is the father of two children, one of whom died in childhood, the other is:



JACOB ZAHNISER AND WIFE

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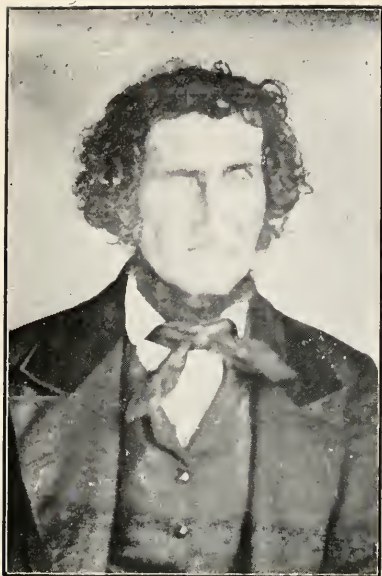
MATTHIAS ZAHNISER

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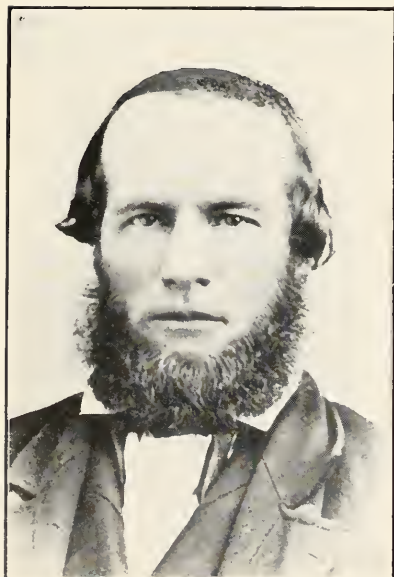


MRS. ELEANOR CALDWELL

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JACOB ZAHNISER AND WIFE  
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**Charles M.** (b. 1856)m. 1895 Elizabeth Somerville.  
He was educated at La Fayette College and is  
a traveling salesman with headquarters in Chi-  
cago, Ill.



DESCENDANTS OF DAVID.





## CHAPTER VI.

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(b. 1795, d. 1874) m. 1818 Anna Coulson (b. 1796, d. 1850)

- I. MATTHIAS** (b. 1819, d. 1891) m. 1843 Mary Hanna (d. 1859), m. 1861 Harriett Lynn. In early life he learned the blacksmith's trade in Mercer, Pa., and soon after settled in Cambridge, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life. He worked at his trade till 1877 when he became entirely blind. He was an active member of the United Presbyterian Church and took a live interest in all public interests. Along with his first wife he had six children, of whom one, James, died in childhood. The others are:

**Sarah A.** (b. 1844) m. 1874 Samuel Mooney, with whom she resides at Springfield, Ill. She has one daughter, Mary, who is married to Horace Wiggins, a hotel keeper at the same place, and who has one daughter, Clarissa.

**Mary H.** (b. 1845) m. 1866 Isaac A. Oldham, a florist, of Cambridge, Ohio, where they still reside. Her children are:

Howard m. Alfa Clements; is a florist, residing at Cambridge, Ohio.

Charles m. Louella Leech; is a florist and resides at Cambridge, Ohio.

Sara resides at home.

Roberta m. Dr. Wm. Congill, with whom she resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

Robert W. (b. 1848) m. . . . Luella McFarland. A retired traveling salesman living at Cambridge, Ohio. Has one child, Robert Joyce.

Margaret J. (b. 1861, d. 1891). During his many years of blindness "Maggie" was her father's constant companion and nurse. She was one of those unfamed heroines whose unselfishness make life's burdens bearable.

William H. (b. 1853) m. 1878 Eva Schattuck. Resides at Colorado Springs where he is employed as a clerk. He has one son, Rob't E.

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II. LINT (b. 1821, d. 1901) m. 18.. Clarinda Jones (d. 1878), m. 18.. Angeline Woods (d. 1895). He chose the occupation of a farmer and spent his earlier years in the Western states where he married. Returning to his native state, he lived in Lake and Jackson Townships till the death of his second wife, after which he resided with his broth-

er D. R. P., on the old homestead. The following are his children by his first marriage:

**Anna** (b. 1862, d. 1897) m. 1886 John Forker (d. 1886), m. 1891 R. King Zahniser. By her first marriage she had one son, John Forker of New Castle, Pa. By her second marriage her children are: Mary Elizabeth, Robert R., Marion E. (d. 1896), infant (1897).

**Mary Etta** (b. 1864) m. William Fleming (d. 1901). She has one child, Nellie.

**Nellie** (b. 1866, d. 1888).

**Omar** (b. 1867) m. 1904 Lena ..... Resides at Steubenville, Ohio. He is an iron worker and has one child, William Lint.

**Alice** (b. 1869) m. A. M. Sneath. Has one child, Carl Lester.

**Aaron** (b. 1872) m. 1903 Mame Aughenbaugh. Resides in Freeport, Pa., where he owns a feed store. He is the father of two children, Harry Lint (d. 1904) and Walter Jones.

### III. WILLIAM W. died without issue.

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**IV. THOMAS C.** His early life was spent at his father's home. He then engaged in teaching school till the breaking out of the war when he enlisted

Oct. 6, 1861) in a company of Volunteer Infantry. The following June he lay in the field hospital with fever and was captured by the Confederates at the Battle of Charles City Cross Roads. It is thought that he died before the prisoners reached Richmond, but he was never heard of again. He was a generous and popular comrade and being a fine penman was much in demand for addressing home-letters for the other soldiers. He was prominently active in temperance work both before and during his service as a soldier.

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**V. JACOB** (b. 1826, d. 1889) m. 1855 Caroline Bolton (d. 1906). He learned the carpenter's trade and located in Pittsburg in 1845, where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a successful contractor and a member of the United Presbyterian Church. Two children died in childhood; those remaining are:

**Mary Pluma** (b. 1856, d. 1878) m. 1876 Joseph H. Stavely. She was the mother of one child, Caroline Z., who married Harry B. Nesbitt and resides at Linden, Kan.

**William J.** (b. 1857) m. 1880 Anna M. Hines (d. 1906). He learned the carpenter's trade with his father and soon became a successful building contractor. He is also senior member of the firm of Zahniser & Clark, wholesale lumber dealers, and prominent in many other business

connections. He is a Republican and has served in select council. His present residence is at Oakmont, Pa.

**Louis C.** (b. 1858, d. 1906).

**Elmer E.** (b. 1860) m. 1884 Ella Carey. Is a granite cutter and resides in Pittsburg, Pa. His children are:

William W., a plumber; Wallace C., a clerk;  
Raymond E. and Margaret Irene.

**George** (b. 1863) m. 1884 Effie Dolben. Is a carpenter and resides in Pittsburg. His children are: Caroline A., Albert W. (clerk), Alice Pluma, Frank D. (d. 1896), Charles B.

**Porter** (b. 1866) m. 1895 Mary Junkin. Is a carpenter and resides in Pittsburg. His children are: Marie C., David P., Ruth A.

**Albert** (b. 1872) m. 1891 Carrie Metz. Is a contracting plumber and resides at Millvale. His children are: Ella May, Ethel C., Emma Caroline.

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**VI. ELEANOR** (b. 1829) m. 1849 William Caldwell (d. 1890). Mr. Caldwell was a farmer living near Stoneboro, Pa. Later he purchased a farm adjoining that of David Zahniser in Lake Township, where she still resides. She and her family are

connected with the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Following are her children:

**Mary**, a nurse residing at Cleveland, Ohio.

**Benj. F.** (b. 1851) m. Mollie Gardner. Is a machinist and resides at La Janita, N. M. His children are: Beatrice who died in childhood, Archie M., Eleanor Z., George G. and Fitzhugh L.

**David.**

**Thomas Z.** (b. 1857) m. Emma Pizer. Is a stone mason and resides at Butler, Pa. His children are: Edna and Paul.

**William** (b. 1858, d. 1860).

**Charles** (b. 1863) m. 1903 Luella McGarr. Is a farmer and resides at the old home. He has two children, Mary Elizabeth and Eleanor.

**Elmer** (b. 1865). A machinist located in Mexico.

**Lois** (b. 1866) m. 1892 J. Z. North. Was graduated from Edinboro State Normal School and for several years a successful primary teacher. She is an active member of the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church. For list of her children see record under name of her husband.

**Jessie** (b. 1869) m. 1897 S. S. Gill, a contractor, with whom she resides in Butler, Pa. Her children are: Frederick Scott and Ralph Emerson.

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**VII. AARON** (b. 1831, d. 1898) m. 1857 Harriett A. Smith. In early life he went west and learning the tanner's trade settled in Oregon, where he resided till his death. Of his children, two, Hattie and Frank died in childhood, the others are:

**Bertram B.** (b. 1859, d. 1866).

**Alpha M.** (b. 1861) m. 1877 James G. Walker. Conducts a hotel at Wedderburn, Oregon. Her children are:

James W. (deputy sheriff), Maude May (teacher), Robert Z., Claude C., Arthur G., Sydney.

**Orlinnie** (b. 1863) m. 1888 John Jenson. She first married a man named Cunningham and has one son by this marriage, Jack Z. Cunningham. By her second marriage her children are: Mabel Irene, Nellie Augusta, Charles R. and Bessie A. They reside at Wedderburn, Oregon.

**Eva** (b. 1865) m. 1882 C. Lockwood, divorced 1889, m. 1893 Joseph G. Crockett. Resides at Wedderburn, Oregon. By her first marriage



she has one child, Harvey Z. Lockwood, and by her second marriage two, David Porter and Joseph Z. Her present husband is a second cousin of David Crockett, the famous scout.

**Porter C.** (b. 1868) m. 1891 Cora E. Merrill. Is a carpenter and lives in Oakland, Cal. His children are: Irene M., Delmer, C. Lester, Cecelia J., Victor M. and Stephen A.

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**VIII. MARY** (b. 1835) m. 1859 Davidson H. Alexander with whom she resides near Henderson, Pa. Of her children, Frances M. died in childhood. The others are:

**Mary E.** (b. 1860) m. 1884 Andrew Carmichael, with whom she resides at Pawnee City, Neb. Her children are: Clara E., Ethel B., Lela L., Hiram A., Helen T.

**Lamont E.** (b. 1862) m. 1883 Ada Andre. Is a farmer and resides at Henderson, Pa. His children are: A. Gertrude, Theda E., Ross L. (d. 1888), Clara G., Helen M., Sterling L.

**William G.**

**David Porter** m. 1901 Annette Cromby. Lives at Massillon, Ohio.

**Pluma L.** (b. 1875) m. 1899 Roscoe Foulke, a minister of the Methodist Church, with whom she

resides at North Clarendon, Pa. She was educated in Grove City College. Her children are: Ruth M., Mildred Pluma, Gladys H.

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- IX. D. R. PORTER** (b. 1838) m. 1875 Mrs. Josephine Osborn. "Port", as he is familiarly called, is a farmer and resides on the homestead of his father in Jackson Township. Without children of his own he has become an endeared foster father to the three sons of his wife's by her former marriage: James, Rev. Plummer N. and William Franklin Osborn, who have thus come to consider the interests of the Zahnisers as their own. He is a Republican and a deacon in the Bethany Cumberland Presbyterian Church. In the Civil War he served as a member of Co. D., 211 P. V.



DESCENDANTS OF MARY.



## CHAPTER VII.

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(b. 1797, d. 1825) m. 1817 Joshua McCracken (b. 1787, d. 1847).

**I. ALEXANDER** (b. 1819, d. 1848) m. 1842 Eliza Lutley (b. 1816, d. 1891) and resided in the northern part of Mercer County. Three children were born, of whom one died in childhood, the others are:

**Joshua** (b. 1846) m. Adelia Dodds. Is an oil operator and resides at Kaneville, Pa. Has been the father of five children of whom one, George M., died in early life. The others are: Elizabeth m. Joseph Hanna and resides at Kaneville, Pa.

Lee Alexander, Mary E., Nannie A.

**Mary** m. Mr. McQuiston and resides near Hartstown, Pa.

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**II. MARY** (b. 1820, d. 18..) m. John McIlwain (d. 1883), a merchant at New Lebanon, Pa. Following are her children:

## THE ZAHNISERS

**Cyrus** (b. 1844, d. 1893) m. 1885 Phoebe Price. During the Civil War, he enlisted in 83d P. V. and served four years. He is a farmer and resides near Sheakleyville, Pa. He is the father of one child, Florence.

**David** (b. 1845) m. 1869 Elizabeth E. Ross. Resides at New Vernon, Pa. His children are:  
**Maude** (b. 1870) m. 1889 C. V. Ross and resides at New Vernon, Pa. Five children have been born of whom the oldest, David S., died 1892. The others are: Lela E., Clair, Harold C., Hortense.

**John** (b. 1872) m. 1895 Margaret Livingston.

**Alexander** (b. 1847) m. 1868 Catherine Jewell. Resides at New Vernon, Pa. He has two children:

**Mary F.** (b. 1869) m. 1888 J. R. Moore, and has one child, Edna F.

**Edward** (b. 1874) m. 1893 Nettie Maud Montgomery. Resides at Sharpsville, Pa., and has six children: Montgomery L. (d. 1904), Floyd M. (d. 1898), Wilbur J., Orien R., Izora and Linda Louise.

**Harvey** (b. 1848) m. 1876 Sarah J. Russell. Resides at New Vernon, Pa. Their children are: **Forest C.** m. 1903 Bessie Coffey, and has one child, Elsie Alberta; **Nellie T.** (d. 1898) age-

20 years, Ethel, Elsie (d. 1902) age 19 years,  
Howard, Laura B. and Roscoe.

**Watson** (b. 1850, d. 1891).

**Emma** m. William Findley.

**Anna B.** m. 1883 C. M. Hanna.

**Adam** (b. 1856) m. 1883 Mary Farrah. Resides at New Lebanon, Pa., and has two sons, Penrose Lee, a graduate of Grove City College, now studying law in Seattle, Wash., and Vance at home.

**William P.** (b. 1858). After securing an education he studied law and practiced for a time at Chicago, removing from there to Seattle, Wash., in the early 90's. He has been prominently identified with the growth of that enterprising city and is today an extensive real estate owner there. "The Judge", as he is familiarly called, has now retired from active practice at the bar and is engaged in looking after the interests of his real estate and other holdings.

**Malinda F.** (b. 1862) m. 1881 George S. Miller (d. 1900). She now resides at Franklin, Pa., and is the mother of two children, Clyde, a bank clerk, and Jay George, both residing with their mother.



**III. ISABEL** (b. 1822, d. 1894) m. 1840 Geo. Axtell (d. 1859). At their marriage they settled on the farm of his father near New Vernon, Pa., where he engaged in lumbering. Following are her children:

**Sylvester** (b. 1850) m. 1875 Ellen E. Jenkins (d. 1882), m. 1884 Martha A. Condit. He is a farmer and has spent his life on the farm on which he was born. In politics he is a Republican and has held many local offices. He is a member and elder in the Presbyterian Church at New Vernon, Pa. He is the father of six children, three by each marriage:

Maud L. (b. 1876) m. R. J. Cousins, resides at Utica, Pa., William N. (b. 1878, d. 1879), Tillie B. (b. 1881, d. 1898), Mary, George C. (b. 1890) and Fred O. (b. 1894).

**Mary** (b. 1852, d. 1880), **Eliab T.** (b. 1855, d. 1875),  
**David A.** (b. 1858, d. 1859).

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**IV. DAVID** (b. 1824, d. 1889) m. 1849 Mary Adams. During the Civil War he served in Co. I., 4th Pa. Cav. He was a blacksmith and resided at Franklin, Pa. To him were born seven children, five of whom, John A., Loretta, Charles, James and Rachel, died in early childhood. The others are:

**Mary Elizabeth** (b. 1852) m. 1872 John A. Pinkerton, a salesman, with whom she resides at Bradford, Pa. Her children are:



CAPT. JAMES ZAHNISER AND WIFE  
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WILLIAM BALL AND WIFE  
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Mary Eliza (b. 1875) m. 1895 Wm. J. Day with whom she resides at Bradford, Pa. Her children are: Charles Alexander, William James and Elizabeth.

William M. (b. 1877, d. 1900).

Grace L. (b. 1882) m. 1903 W. J. McKinley, a clerk, resides at Chicago.

Ola M., Pearl J. and Bertha Z reside in Chicago.

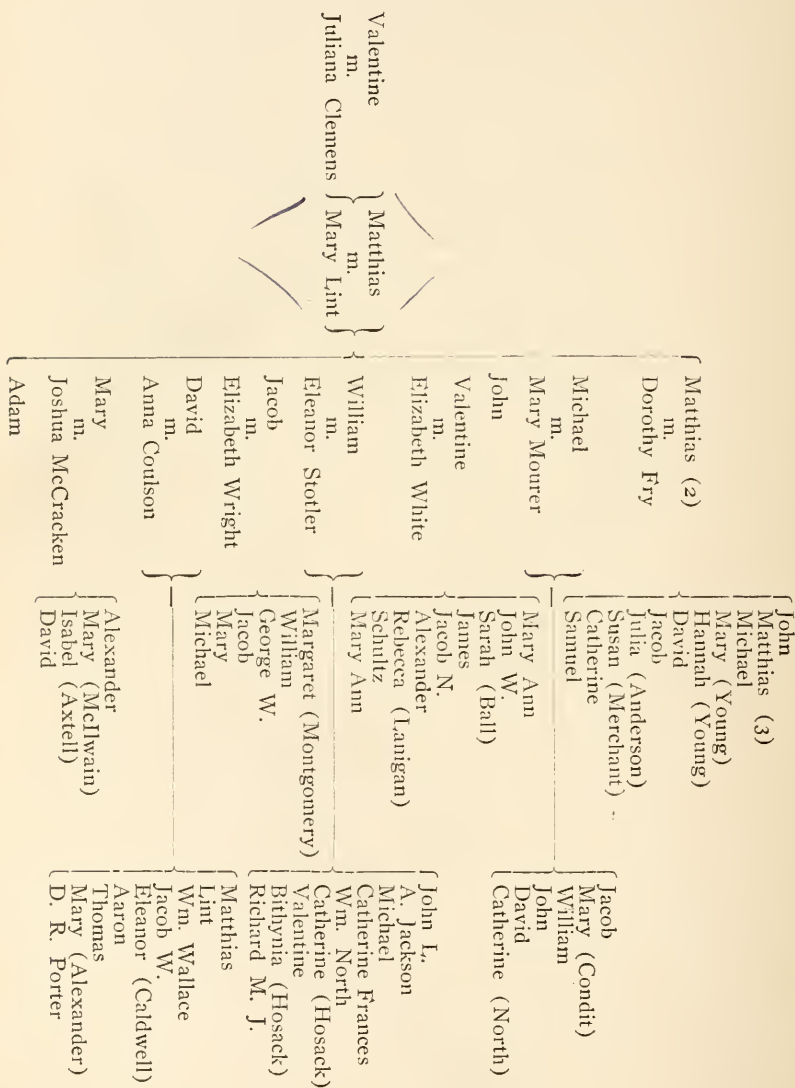
**William C.** (b. 1856) m. 1885 Lucy A. McCool. He is a farmer and resides near Omega, Oklahoma.

- V. There were two other children of Mary and Joshua McCracken who died in infancy.



## THE ZAHNISERS

## TREE OF FIRST FOUR GENERATIONS.



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